FSDAY, JANUARY,

British police

on drugs raid

stuck in lift

Bahrain arrests 2,370 people — group

NICOSIA (AFP) - Bahraini authorities arrested 2,370 people during last month's riots and many were suffering from harsh conditions in jail, a London-based support group said Wednesday. The Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain said in a statement received in Cyprus that women, children, said in a statement received in Cyprus that women, children, elderly and handicapped people were among the prisoners held in jails without charge or trial. "There is no place for the prisoners even to sit on the ground" because the prisons are full, and "most of the prisoners are forced to stand all day," it said. "Tens of prisoners are (subjected to) brutal torture" by the security forces, the committee said, adding that relatives and lawyers were prevented from visiting the detainees. Recently the banned Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) announced that 2,200 people accused of involvement in the ripts had been arrested people accused of involvement in the riots had been arrested. IFLB leader Sheikh Mohammad Ali Mahfuz called Tuesday for an international commission to be set up to investigate the clashes between security forces and Shiite Muslims.

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Majali resigns; Sharif Zeid to form cabinet

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday offered his resignation to His Majesty King Hussein, paving the way for Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to form a new government, well-informed sources said.

It was not clear whether the new government would be announced today or whether it will be delayed several days until after Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou concludes his four-day official visit to the Kingdom. Mr. Papandreou's visit will

begin Friday. Some sources expected that there was not enough time for the new government to be appointed and sworn in before the visit of the

Greek prime minister and the accompanying delegation. These sources said Dr. Majali could remain in office for several days until Sharif Zeid has had time to consult with major political groups on the make-up of his govern-

However, other sources said that Sharif Zeid has had ample time to contact prospective ministers and can form his government im-

While the sources ex-

pect the new government to include a similar number of parliamentarians as in Dr. Majali's team, they say the new ministers will be more representative of the various political trends in the country.

"The new government will not be a big change from Dr. Majali's cabinet but it will be a credible change," said an informed source. "It will likely include people who have spoken out against past wrongs... they will be more dynamic in addressing these problems."

The new government is expected to carry out several policies in the first several weeks of its tenure to improve relations with Parliament and other opposition

The new government will have to deal with the political and economic changes accompanying the Jordan-Israeli peace accord, the Kingdom's regional role and relations with the Palestinians.

The Islamists, which are not expected to join the Sharif Zeid team as a bloc, say that their members can now join the government as individuals. Whether Sharif Zeid will ask any of them to join, however, remains unclear.

Upon his return from a private visit to Austria on Monday, King Hussein said: "We are in a situation in which we continue to reconsider our conditions."

"I think we should also reconsider our situation in terms of the need for a new start with regard to the responsibilities and challenges of the future," the King said.

Political sources said the King's recent references to the need for profound change could go beyond the government to the Royal Court and other official institutions.

Strong contenders for replacing Sharif Zeid as chief of the Royal Court include King Hussein's political advisor Marwan Qassem and Dr. Majali. However, sources could not rule out the appointment of a surprise nominee.

Among those tipped to be included in the new cabinet are: Deputies Abdul Karim Kabariti, Saleh Irsheidat, Ali Abul Ragheb, Samir Habashneh, Awad Khleifat, Aref Bataineh, Abdullah Ensour, Abdul Karim Dughmi and Abdul Hadi Majali, former Finance Minister Basil Jardaneh, former Interior Minister Salem Masadeh, former Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin, Minister of Supply Adel Qudah and Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf.

Sharif Zeid formed his first government in 1989 and stepped down in late 1989 after overseeing the first democratic elections in the country since

Sharif Zeid took over the premiership again in October 1991 and stayed in power without changes until the appointment of Dr. Ma-



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

Greek premier visits Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) -Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad here Pentagennay Wednesday at the start of a three-day visit, his first to Damascus for 10 years. The official Syrian news agency SANA described the meeting as "cordial." Mr. Papan-dreou's talks with Syrian offi-cials were expected to focus on the role Greece could play in furthering peace in the Middle East. He was accompanied by his wife Dimitra. Liani-Papandreon and a government delegation including Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias and Merchant Marine Minister George Kat-

Gingrich named House speaker

WASHINGTON (AFP) grich was elected speaker of the House of Representatives Wednesday as the new Republican majority in Congress convened its opening session. Mr. Ging-rich, who was elected to the House in 1978, is the first Republican to hold the post since 1954. He takes over from Washington Democrat Thomas Foley, whose Nov. 8 mid-term defeat made him the first speaker to be unseated in over a century. House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt was also nominated for speaker, but his defeat was a foregone conclusion now that Republicans hold 53 of the 100 seats. Mr. Gingrich, who hails from Georgia, won the vote by 228 to 202 with four voting present and one absent.

Clinton seeks advice from motivation 'guru'

WASHINGTON (AFP) -President Bill Clinton, still recovering from his party's devastating defeat, has turned to an untraditional source for advice, joining the new American craze for personal motivation gurus." Mr. Clinton met last week at the Camp David White House retreat with Mr. Stephen Covey and Anthony Robbins, nationally-known experts whose books and tapes give advice on getting ead in business and personal matters, a White House spokesman Mark Gearan said Tuesday, Ironically, Mr. Clinton's nemiss, the new House Speaker Newt Ging-rich, has also sought advice from Mr. Covey and co-wrote a student text on personal strength in American culture with him. Mr. Gearan said Mr. Clinton arranged for the meetings with Mr. Robins and Mr. Covey himself, but theresed there was nothing musual about their visit with Mr. Covey himself, but Mr. Clinton, who many have blamed for his party's mid-term defeat.

Mood in Parliament over cabinet change: chances are good for improving relations Israelis fire at Gaza police

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — The impending government change dominated conversations in the galleries of Parliament Wednesday though no mention of a new Cabinet, expected in the coming few days, was made during the formal session of the Lower House.

Most deputies believed that Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker will form the new government and said that this would herald better relations between the legislative and the executive authorities, reflecting positively on the relationship which has probably seen less ups than downs since the appointment of the Majali government in May 1993.

Though the initial tension resulted from Dr. Majali's recommendation to the King to dissolve the 11th Parliament and his government's change of the Election Law against the will of most political parties and deputies, lawmakers saw the way in which Dr. Majali dealt with the House after its election as a direct reason for the sometimes tense relations between the

wo parties. Deputies charge Dr. Ma-

jali, whose government won a simple majority in its vote of confidence from the House, has not shown enough regard for the House and cite as example the way in which he introduced the second reshuffle to his government in June.

Though Dr. Majali then brought 10 lawmakers to the Cabinet, deputies criticised him for failing to consult blocs" and attempting to divide them.

Dr. Majali repeatedly dismissed these charges. saying his government has respected the role of the House and worked to improve ties with it. But his assertions did little to change many deputies' views that Dr. Majali does not pay enough attention to the views of lawmakers.

Opposition deputies also accuse the government of suppressing their views, saying that the democratisation process has witnessed a visible decline since Dr. Majali took office.

Deputies opposed to the peace process charged that the government had sent the country back to the martial law era after the peace treaty was signed, denying them many of their constitutional rights to express their view on the

But saying that Sharif Zeid's politics are predicted on maintaining consulta-tions with the House and political powers, even the Islamists, whom many say Sharif Zeid's previous government was accused of appeasing, expect a warming up of legislativeexecutive relations if he takes the helm of the new

government. Sharif Zeid's government dismissed those charges at the time saying it followed policies of "inclusion" not appeasement.

ANALYSIS

Sources close to Sharif Zeid said that the power base of the Islamists at the House has in any way been reduced from 23 seats in addition to about 10 other supporters during Sharif Zeid's previous government to 17 seats plus less supporters in the current Parliament, and that will leave its mark on the policy the new government will adopt towards the Islamists.

Another element that observers quote as a factor that would help improve the government's relations with the opposition is its commitment that it will express its rejection of the peace treaty with Israel

through legal and constitu-tional means. IAF spokesman Hamzeh

Mansour, however, was confident that Sharif Zeid will take the initiative to improve ties with the IAF's 17-member parliamentary

And observers say Sharif Zeid will succeed in doing that because the Islamists are more than interested in restoring good ties with the regime after a period of isolation that saw them lose much of their power in the House and possibly on the street as well.

Meanwhile, deputies confirmed that Sharif Zeid has not yet started consulting them on the formation of the new government but many said they trust he will do so once he starts choosing members of his cabinet.

But many deputies ex-pected Sharif Zeid to consult with parliamentarians as individuals and not as members of blocs, adding that any deputies who would join the government would be chosen on their own merits and not as representatives of blocs.

Sources close to Sharif Zeid, however, said that he will make a concerted effort to consult with parliamentry blocs before announcing

Self-rule talks deadlocked;

Arafat, Rabin to meet next week, but PLO seen losing trust in Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is losing trust in Israel, officials said here Wednesday after another round of negotiations failed to break the deadlock over extending Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank.

Tension also rose Wednesday after Israeli troops and Palestinian police exchanged fire in the Gaza Strip in the same area where Israeli forces killed three Palestinian National Authority (PNA) policemen on Monday night, witnesses said.

They said Israeli troops wounded two Palestinians, at least one of them a civilian, who was burt in the hand. It was the latest in a series of gunbattles following the killing of the policemen, resi-

The Monday encounter,

Israel, was the bloodiest berween forces since Israeli troops handed over most of the Gaza Strip to Palestinian

rule eight months ago. The army closed the Erez crossing after the shooting incident on Wednesday, wit-

As in previous cases, it was unclear who started the

shooting - or if a third source was involved. Israeli commanders speculate anti-peace gunmen pro-

voked the Monday incident.

firing from a nearby orchard

before fleeing. The violence and the crisis over expanding Jewish settle-

(Continued on page 7)

Israeli troops kill 3 Palestinians

RAMALLAH (AFP) - Israeli troops shot and killed three Palestinians near Ramallah on the occupied West Bank Wednesday, Palestinian officials said. The victims died in an exchange of fire with an Israeli

An Israeli army spokesman confirmed that a "serious incident" had taken place near Ramaliah, in which several Palestinians died, but he did not give a casualty figure or explain the circumstances. The three deaths raise to 35 the

number of Palestinians killed by Israeli troops or settlers since self-rule was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho

Crown Prince's meeting with Islamists seen to signal better political atmosphere

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has met with representatives of the Islamic movement in the Kingdom and observers said the meeting will help put back on track the Islamists' relations with the govern-

Sources said the meeting, which took place Tuesday, agreed on the need for keeping bridges of communications open between the Islamists and the establishment as the best way of serving the interests of the coun-

The meeting was attended by the overall leader of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, Abdul Majeed Threibat, and the spokesman of the Islamic Action Front parliamentary bloc, Hamzeh Mansour, among other leaders of the Islamic movement. Little information was dis-

closed about what actually took place in the meeting but informed sources told the Jordan Times it was held in a cordial and frank atmosphere with emphasis put on the need for continuing consultation and dialogue between the Islamic movement and

The sources told the Jor-

dan Times that the president of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament played an instrumental role in setting up the meeting. They said Mr. Mansour officially requested the meeting when Prince Hassan addressed the Foreign Affairs Committee in early December.

Meanwhile, IAF sources expected an improvement of relations between the government and the Islamic movement following the expected appointment of a new cabinet which is expected to be headed by Sharif Zeid Ben

Shaker next week.

working relationship with the of the IAF deputies boycotgovernment of Sharif Zeid that resigned in May 1993. The sources did not expect the Islamists to join the new

government but said that a process of consultation will be established between the two sides, mainly through their 17-member parliamentary bloc. They said that the "veto"

within the Islamic movement against joining the government was no longer in effect in absolute terms. "If we are approached to

join the government, our decision will depend on the choice of the prime minister, his team and the government's programme," an IAF source said.

Relations between the government and the Islamists had gone sour since Dr. Majali formed his cabinet in May 1993 and the tension escalated after Jordan and Israel signed the Oct. 26 peace trea-

The tension reached a high The Islamists had had good in October when six members

ted the speech from the throne with which His Majesty King Hussein opened the second ordinary session of Parliament.

This unprecedented move incurred the wrath of most political groups in the country and resulted in their isolation from any leadership position in the House. The slide in relations has continued since then. But sources said the Islam-

ists were interested in improving relations with the government at this point, especially if the new government is headed by Sharif Zeid, who "respects the House and whose politics recognise the need for consultation with political powers in the country." as one independent Islamist deputy puts it.

The two sides have to work on improving relations, Mr. Mansour told the Jordan Times. "We will do our part and we believe Sharif Zeid will do his part too," he said.

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian President Boris Yeltseasoned combat troops including paratroop units plus sin ordered a halt to the marines were being rushed to Russian bombing of the the conflict zone to beef up Chechen capital Grozny on the Russian forces which Wednesday, his press spokes-man announced, as ground were repulsed from Grozny over the weekend, losing dozens of tanks and scores of reinforcements were rushed

Yeltsin orders halt to Grozny

Yeltsin spokesman Anatoly Krasikov said "the president has ordered a halt to the bombardment of Grozny, from midnight local time (2100 GMT Wednesday). Mr. Yeltsin made a similar

to the rebellious republic.

announcement last week, but the bombing of the capital of the breakaway republic continued despite his statement. The dispatch of troop reinforcements meanwhile appeared to mark a new wave in the five-day Russian offensive to capture the city.

The bombing by Russian warplanes, which has killed civilians in addition to hitting strategic targets, has drawn growing expressions of con-cern from both reformist Russian deputies and the

The French presidency of the European Union warned Wednesday that the bloody military intervention in Chechenya could undermine relations with Moscow. At least 27 people were

killed and more than 100 injured in two separate Russian air raids around the Chechen capital on Tuesday, relief officials said in Gronzy on Wednesday,

Russian media reports said

bombing, rushes ground forces

Boris Agapov, vice president of Ingushetia, another Russian republic which borders on Chechenya, said Wednesday that the dispatch of reinforcements was a preinde to a new assault by Russian troops on Grozny.

He said the Russian military were apparently preparing for an attack by ground troops and paratroopers - a change of tactics from the tank onslaught which failed at the weekend and produced many casualties.

Correspondents in Gronzy reported Wednesday that Russian troops backed by heavy artillery and rocket fire had pushed in toward the city centre from the west. Sergei Yushenkov, chair-

man of the state Duma's defence committee, was auoted by Moscow Echo radio Wednesday as saying paratroop reinforcements were en route to the conflict zone from the Beslan base in neighbouring North Ossetia. Hours earlier the ITAR-

TASS news agency said ex-perienced reinforcements had also been sent in from the Kola Peninsula in northwest Russia to beef up the military contingent trying to

put down the Chechen rebel-

'Russia has flown (in) well-trained reinforcements and a ground force familiar with peacekeeping opera-tions." ITAR-TASS said, quoting officials in Mur-mansk. It did not indicate the number of troops sent.

The agency added that 200 guards were also poised to go

In Vienna, an official at the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said the European security organisation's permanent council, its decision-making body, would meet on Jan. 12 to discuss ways of helping to stop the fighting.

Russia said it was not prepared to discuss Chechenya with foreign countries. But France urged its EU partners to demand that Mr. Yeltsin be held to account for his actions in the Chechen crisis.

"We have a right to demand explanations at the OCSE. I have contacted our 14 partners of the European Union so that we turn to Russia and ask Russia to give an explanation." French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe

Russia sent troops to Chechenva on Dec. 11 to smash the tiny mainly-Muslim region's bid for independence. It launched a tankled assault on Grozny, an oil-refining centre of 400,000

(Continued on page 7)

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U.S.'managing contacts' between Mideast parties

Washington (USIA) — State Department spokesman Michael McCurry confirmed that the United States is continuing to manage contacts between Israel and Syria in pursuit of a comprehensive Middle East peace, but he declined to provide substan-

Asked about reports that the military chiefs of the two governments met last week in Washington for further discussions in that regard, he did not confirm specifically that the taiks had occurred. But he said he did not know of any reason to dispute reports that Israeli and Syrian military chiefs had met with President Clinton.

'If they saw the president. my guess is that he told them... that it is important for them to continue to make progress that will narrow the gaps that assuredly exist between their respective positions." Mr. McCurry said.
"That's the work that

we're doing," the spokesman said. "We are managing contacts between the parties.... We're not commenting in any detail about the substantive exchanges that have occurred during those contacts." Nor would be comment in

detail about last week's three-day summit among the leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria in Alexandria, although he did say the United States rejects the proposition that any one side is responsible for obstacles to peace. The Alexandria summit produced a communique that some have suggested blames Israel for the lack of progress in its peace talks

We by no means are being silent on it," he told reporters. "We will have discussions separately with each of the three governments that participated to better understand their views, and we will reaffirm our own view that we need to make progress towards a comprehensive and lasting peace for the region. "Sometimes we choose not

to conduct diplomacy publicly," Mr. McCurry said. "We are going to continue to have discussions with the participants in that summit; we'll obviously continue our very close collaboration with Israel. Frankly, what we are most concerned about is continuing to do the very hard work that builds on the momentum that has existed in the peace process throughout this last year and that we hope will extend into the coming year.

"Our view is that the parties remain very directly engaged in substantive discussions that could close the serious gaps that do remain between their positions." Mr. McCurry said. "We believe that the trend in the region is towards a just and comprehensive peace, not away from it." Recalling that Israel and Jordan achieved an historic peace agreement in 1994, the spokesman asserted that "a determined effort on the part of the United States" had helped ine parties to make that kind of progress.

He characterised the Israeli-Syrian negotiating track as "a tough discussion," and said they have not yet narrowed the gaps between their positions.

Asked about Defence Secretary William Perry's planned trip to the region later this week, Mr. McCurry said the secretary would be discussing a wide range of bilateral issues "that sometimes don't get as complete

ing in the thick of the peace process itself." Mr. Perry will visit Egypt and Israel while he is in the Middle East.

"He'll also be in a position to reaffirm our own strong support for the (peace) process and to underscore the importance" of closing some of the gaps that remain, the spokesman said. Mr. Perry's visit is "part of an ongoing programme of very-high contacts" the United States maintains with Israel, which Mr. McCurry described as a strategic ally.

He cautioned reporters not to conclude that Mr. Perry's trip would involve detailed operational military work that would be an indication that Syria and Israel are closer to a peace agreement than as been thought, "Don't leap to that conclusion." Mr. McCurry said. If asked, the United States has pledged to provide troops to help police a truce between Israel and Svria on the Golan Heights.

Responding to a question. the spokesman noted that the Israeli cabinet has now addressed the question of at least one Jewish settlement near Jerusalem, but he did not offer any specific comment on the cabinet's action.

Mr. McCurry told repor-ters there has been no change in the U.S. view that the settlements "are an enormous complication as you look at the (peace) process." He said there is "every indication" that Israel and the Palestinians are continuing to deal with the issue in the context of their Declaration of Principles. "They continue to seem determined to reframed and outlined within

> Wednesday. of people.

Two years ago, however, the shune of another body man; Sidi Abde! Rahman, was twice desecrated in the capital Algiers, reportedly by Muslim activists who consider the veneration of holy men, widespread in North



patrol Wednesday as life returns to normal in Al Khader, the West Bank village that for the last week was the scene of demonstrations against a widening of the Israeli settlement of

actions were moved to another hill the settlement (AFP photo)

Algerian veteran killed; holy shrines desecrated

backed government.

man Meziane-Cherif.

after independence, the

National Liberation Front

(FLN), declared Wednesday

that it planned soon to orga-

nise a "national congress for

reconciliation and concord."

able to AFP, the FLN's poli-

tical bureau said it "had de-

cided to make preliminary

contacts from this week with

concerned parties... (politic-

al) parties, associations and

The FLN is favourable to

drawing the outlawed Islamic

Salvation Front (FIS) into

negotiations to find a political

settiement to the conflict.

which claimed more than

2.700 lives in 1994 according

to a toll drawn from official

national personalities."

In a statement made avail-

ALGIERS (AFP) — Islamic extremists have killed a veteran of Algeria's war of independence from France. Abdullah Benseghir, at Thenia east of Algiers, an association he belonged to announced Wednesday.

The Association of War Veterans said Benseghir was murdered on Monday as he prepared to board a train in an attack blamed on "terrorists," the term used by authorities for armed fundamentalists waging war on the secular regime.

In another incident, the mausoleum of a venerated Muslim holy man was desecrated and set on fire in the far western town of Tiemcen on Saturday, the independent Al Watan daily reported

The caper did not say who desecrated the tomb of Sidi Boumedienne. Algeria's most revered Sufi mystic, in the 14th-century mosque bearing his name, which overlooks the city and is a site of pilgrimage for thousands

srael threatens to cancel Dozens of veterans of the war of 1954-62 war of inde-Russian pendence have been killed in attacks blamed on fundamentalists, who have also flights targetted scores of academics, journalists, doctors, government workers and

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has foreigners they accuse of colthreatened to cancel all laborating with the armyflights by Russian airlines to Tel Aviv because Russian au-The association Benseghin thorities refused to allow belonged to is chaired by Israeli security agents to car-Interior Minister Abdul Rahry guns at Moscow airport, a Fransport Ministry spokes-In another development. nan said on Wednesday. the former sole ruling party "We'll wait until the end of

> whether to order a halt to Russian flights to Israel." he El Al Israel airlines cancelled two flights to Russia on

he week before deciding on

Wednesday one to St. Petersburg and the other to Moscow. Passengers were transferred to other carriers. The Israeli a.....e cancelled its Monday flights following a Dec. 30 incident, when

security agents from can ing weapons at Moscow's Shermetvevo airport.
We decided to cancel the flights following changes in our standard security procedures which were forced

Russian police barred F' Al

upon us by the Russians," an El Al spokesman said. 'El Al will not operate flights to any de lination in

[2] Al takes strict security housafer the Mag arabel security guards on board as well as at its airport check-in counters. The arrangements nast always be approved by he local authorities.

The Transport Ministry spokesman said Israel has not yet received any response from the Russian authorities on the security matter despite several messages on the

Israeli officials fear a canceliation of flights could seriously hurt immigration and travel between the two countries.

Two Russian airlines. Transacro and Aeroflot, currently fly from Russia to El Al flies three times a

week to Moscow and once a week to St. Petersourg. The airline spokesman said that flights to other destinations in the CIS have not been affected. In the past Ei Al halted

flights to Stockholm when Swedish authorities barred the airline from implementing its security proce-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Geagea denied transfer to another jail

BEIRUT (AFP) — The lawyers of former Christian warlord Samir Geagea will boycott his trial which resumes here on Friday after a Lebanese court ruled against transferring him from a Defence Ministry cell to a civilian jail. Edmond Naim, one of Dr. Geagea's key lawyers, told AFP Wednesday that the 120-member defence team will not attend the next hearing following the decision announced late Tuesday by the Council of State, an administrative court. Mr. Naim warned against attempts by the court to appoint lawyers to defend Dr. Geagea, who is accused of killing rival Christian leader Dany Chamoun and his family in 1990 and the bombing of a church last February that killed 11 people. The ex-militia chief, who commanded the now disbanded Lebanese Forces (LF) militia in the last five years of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, faces the death penalty if convicted. He has been held since his arrest last April at the Defence Ministry and repeated requests by his lawyers that he be jailed in a civilian prison have been turned down. Defence Minister Mohsen Dallul decided Dr. Geagea should be kept at the ministry cell for his own security but his lawyers fear that he could be put under pressure because of a bloody conflict between the LF and the army in 1990. Iranian parliament bans satellite dishes

TEHRAN (AFP) - The Iranian parliament on Wednes-

day imposed an indefinite ban on satellite dishes, parliamentary sources said. The conservative-majority assembly voted Sunday to ban all satellite dishes for three years in a bid to prevent Iranians from watching foreign television programmes, deemed here as harmful to Islamic values. But several deputies argued in Wednesday that a clause in the law limiting the ban to three years had not been approved by the majority of the deputies and called for a new vote. The clause, added at the last minute Sunday and supported by the government, was rejected this time in a secret vote. Sunday's ruling gives satellite users one month's grace to remove their equipment or face legal action. Police and the voluntary Islamic militia have been empowered to seize the dishes if owners fail to dismantle them. In addition to losing their equipment, violaters could also face a hefty fine. The law, however, still has to receive the final approval from the Council of Guardians, but the conservative-dominated body is expected to pass it. Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said Monday that the police were "prepared to remove" all dishes after the law is approved by the 12-member council, which oversees laws passed by the parliament to ensure they conform to Islamic principles and

British minister holds talks in Bahrain

MANAMA (R) - British Minister of the Armed Forces Nicholas Soames discussed regional developments on Wednesday with Bahrain's Em. Sheikh Isa Ben Sulman Al Khalifa, the Gulf News Age ..., reported. The agency said the talks also covered milita. . cooperation between the two countries, but gave no actails. Mr. Soames arrived in Bahrain on Tuesday night and a British embassy spokesman said he would stay until Friday. Mr. Soames will hold talks with Bahraini leaders on mutual defence matters.

Israeli court forbids prutality

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israel's high court on Tuesday ordered the security services to stop the brutal treatment of a Palestinian prisoner held in Hebron on the occupied West Bank, justice officials said. Omar Imad had brought a case against the security services via his lawyer, complaining that he had been deprived of sleep for five days and had his head covered with a hood day and night. He also said he was forced to remain in a painful posture for five days and was hit each time he moved. The prisoner was suspected of belonging to the hardline Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas. According to the Israeli human rights watchdog Betselem, the security services rounnely inflict such brutal treatment on Palestinian prisoners. The high court ordered an immediate halt to such treatment an : gave the security services by days to explain will and used such methods, the justice officials some about allows "moderate physical pressure" to be exerted on Palestinian suspects during interrogation, and more serious pressure hen the security services are seeking information needed and the state of the same of t

Vietnamese diplomat thought he was being freed

PARIS (AFP) - A Vietnamese diplomat killed during the Airbus hijack drama in Algiers thought he was going to be freed, moments before he was led out and shot, according to a witness account published Wednesday. Claude (only first name given), an air hostess on the Air France plane seized on Dec. 24, said that Bui Giang To, a commercial counsellor based in Algeria, apparently had no idea he going to be executed. "He didn't understand the situation. When Bobby (one of the hijackers) came to fetch him, he tought he was going to be freed," she told the French daily Liberation. "He was on his way, then came back to get three bottles of wine which he had forgotten. He was told it was better to leave them, and he shrugged his shoulders.
"The poor man didn't have the time to realise. He took one step out of the cabin and he was executed on the steps," she said. Asked why he was picked out to be shot, she said the head of the four-man hijack team whom she identified as Yaya, had told her: 'He was a foreigner, a Buddhist, and he had a lot of qualifications." The Vietnamese diplomat was the second of three hostages shot during the two-day hijack drama, which ended when the hijackers were killed by crack French intervention troops at Marseille airport on Dec. 26. The other two were an Algerian plain-clothes policeman, and an employee of the French embassy in

Kurdish conflict is Turkey's top internal problem in '95

The military's drive on

the PKK escalated in 1994

- the bloodiest year so far

- when more than 6.000

guerrillas, members of the

security forces and civilians

It was also a year in

which Ankara came under

sha. craicism over human

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ANKARA (R) - Violence over the New Year holiday in west and southeast Turkey has underscored afresh that the army's battle with Kurdish guerrillas will remain Ankara's top pro:-

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munity in March, later ng to ele-er innosaying that the PKK had antibe auto di ver Litti been driven out of parliament. The sentencing, by a state security court in Anklace of growing m about huara on Dec. 8, helped hey, both undermine a planned cusn: Suleyman toms union deal with the

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The Hat Squad
Nows in English
Today's Plant Skylark
The Enils

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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, 7cl 8(974)

Assemblies of God Church, Tell

St. Joseph Church Tcl: 424599.

De la Salie Church Tel. 161757 Terresancia Church Tel. 62346 Church of the Amsenciation Tel.

Anglican Church Tel. 63/851, Tel. 40/543

the PKK.

European Union 11 days Despite the foreign criticism, hundreds of writers and intellectuals have been hauled before the courts under Turkey's tough laws on separatism which effectively encompass speeches and books as well as guerni-

la acts. Moves towards democratisation have been held up in parliament mainly due to opposition from nationalists

and Islamists as well as con-

Armenian Catholic Church Tel

Armenian Orthodox Church Tei. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel 771751

Amman International Church Tol. 652526

Evangelical Letheran Church Tel. 824928

German-speaking Evangelical Con-

gregation Tel 6/4/95
The Latter-Day Saints Tel 6/54031
Church of Nazarene Tel 6/54031
The Evangelical Local Church in

WEATHER

Buildin supplied by the Department of Metermings

It will be sanny and warm with

clouds appearing at different alti-tudes and winds southwesterly moderate. In Agains, normal

scather coeditions will energy with

winds northernly moderate and

Amman 5.15
Aqaba 1: 24
Deserts 4: 17
Jordan Valley 21

Yesterday's high temperatures Amman 19, Aqaba 24, Humidity

readings: Amman 56 per cent,

Min Max, temp

Ammaa Tel. 301276

servatives from Ms. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP). Often during 1994, Ms.

Ciller and Interior Minister Nahit Mentese declared the battle against the PKK almost won. But more than 200 000 soldiers and thousands of commandos and state-paid village guards are still battling elu-sive PKK guerrillas in the mountainous east and southeast.

The military has, unusually, continued into winter its offensive to root out the PKK from the eastern province of Tunceli where some 40,000 soldiers are stationed.

PKK leader Abduilah Ocaian told the pro-Kurdish Ozgur Ulke last week that the separatists' war with security forces to carve out a Kurdish state in the southeast would con-

But he also pledged to continue working for a poli-tical solution following letters to Western leaders in November, calling for a ceasefire and international mediation.

Ankara flatly rejected the offer. Tunceli governor Atii

Uzelgun told Reuters: "Our aim for 1995 is to finish the PKK in Tunceli before the summer, using experienced commandos.

Sudanese forces end plane which our security procedures are compromised." hijack and arrest hijacker

KHARTOUM (APP) — Sudanese social formation-tured an army company who hijacked an internal flight with his wife on Wednesday but freed all the passengers and crew after the plane was diverted to Port Sudan.

The hijacker, named as Mohammad Jubara Mohammad, said he had wanted to take his wife to the Egyptian capital Caire for personal reasons, but was unable to afford the fare, the SUNA

news agency reported.

The Sudan Airways plane had just taken off from Khartoum on a regular flight to the northern town of Merawi. with 36 passengers and crew aboard, when the couple ordered the prior to go to Cairo.

But the mist structed them he did not have enough fuel and the Fokker aircraft landed in Port Spiza on the Red Sea coast of eastern Sudan, where the hijackers released the passengers and the crew but remained on the

plane. The action interday a say which a the wife nor whether the pair was armed. The man had earlier threatened to commit

made to capture him. Several government ministers went to Port Sudan to menitor negotiations with the man, who came from Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman, according to the news

An Egyptian court on Sudan sentenced a Sudanese to 15 years of hard labour for hijacking a Sudan Airways plane with 93 passengers flying from Khartoum to Dongola in northern Sudan on April 6.

Adel Mahjoub, 26, had torced the pilot at gunpoint to fiv to Egypt, where the authorities refused permission to land in Cairo but allowed the aircraft to touch down in the southern town of Luxor. The hijacker gave hamself up there.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN: Dr. Faki, Tarch 58588 Dr. Nidai Al Dunich 5710 Dr. Salman Al Duh, ubi 7675 Dr. Buestom Karadaheh 7500 Ferdows pharmacy 7703 Al Asema pharmacy 63705 Namouth pharmacy 63705 Vanub pharmacy 63670 Vanub pharmacy 63670 Shmenam pharmacy 63670 Naph pharmacy 63765 Naph pharmacy 63765
IRBID: Dr. Favez Al Qadi 24874 Alguds pharmacy (—
ZARQA:

Dr. Tareg Hijawi 1985445 98541

EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637:11

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Water and Sewerage

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INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Reval Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Green Alia In-ternational Amport Tel (18/51200-5, where it should always be veri-

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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21:36 Rome (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

·····...... Jeddah (add) (SV ····· Sharqah (AH) Riyadb (SV Doha (Q7) ... Doha (Q7) 17:56 Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:20 Berrat (ME)
21:05 Cairo (MS)
19ta:bul (TK) 01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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Other Flights (Terminal 2) Beirut (ME) Jeddah (SV)

Hiaz Pailway Train Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus 7:50 a.m. every Sunday Arr. Adadan ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES Upperflower price in fils per kg.

	/UV/ 400
Вапала ,,,,,,,	680
Banana (Mukammar) .	620
Cabbace .	
Cabbage	200/150
Carrot	251/150
Cauliflower	200/ 200
Cucumber Co.	200 200
Cucumbers (large)	200 / 150
Ancintificate (attrail)	450/3003
Eggplant .	230/ 247
Cortic	355 350
Gartic	43U/35U
Crape Fruit	740 / 140
Lemon	270 / 160
Marrow (lane)	270 / 100
Marrow (large)	بحا / 150
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Pepper (sweet)	600 / 400
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The Arab ! anmin, and in num (AMC A an emerates מו לה הונשות הל וה bid Radio 45 de teat. NOW OF CALL Buildestinesson Saleh Abdu. 2 pellon Sestem approved a ull offer sur-AMC to esta of channels that which the say a provide the th haden decoderates with the general december gension sets be

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Agricultura, C: tion (ACC) and during 1994 5.68" farmers of ers, according t Wednesday General Mab

Mr. Ambya loans were us the relamination purchase of ments, the a poultry tames. of agricultura

machinery. Nearly 50 p loans went to and 🗇 per ce number at be first-time AC Dients, added Last year bo JD12.3 multos

compared to .

ataiben Wednesday - delegation from * and University Comi ^{Банетине}ан (UN-Talks on enhancthe terms of the second twinn The in scientific tac fields as part of nitles of the

AMMAN (J.T erations of a Fied here in the Commerce in roussion also for Palestine 5 areas of developannounced a " Tarmes offered by tocci" to pror of Jordan and Haidar Mus of the Federal

in of Tourism to nian Chambe

Mat's Going

thing listings are compiled from mont ship Arabic press. Readers are advised and place with the concerned tiean fi**lm week** Sella de la Alhambra"

Alberthe Spanish Cultural Centrel on FILM

and count the World in 80 r Around the World in on Thursday at 5:00 p. CONCERTS

the Concert by Maybe band at 6:00 p.r. Concert by Maybe manu on inursday at our la line some line d longdas at 8:00 b.m.

EXHIBITIONS works by Mahmud Obaidi A showing an exhibition of particular and the exhibition of co Reintings by Ismail and Tamas Shoman Foundation.



BRIEF

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THEMAY TELL

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T.V. service to start'

Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN -- Jordan is to crart its first multi-channel television service this month, Director General of Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JRTVC) Ihsan Ramzi said

By Khattab Salman

Mr. Ramzi told the Jordan Times that the five channels system will be provided immediately in the capital, Amman, and in three other governorates later in the year.

He said that this service. which is known as multipoints/multi-destination distribution system (MMDS), will offer subscribers five channels that can be received through a special, built-in decoder that will be installed in subscribers' television sets by

HOME NEWS

IN BRIEF

copulation needs

AMMAN (Petra) - The

General Secretariat of the

National Population Com-

mittee in cooperation with

the United Nations Popula-

tion Fund today (Thursday)

hold a seminar on the basic

needs of Jordan's population

up to the year 2005. Partici-

pants will discuss a study on the Kingdom's population

needs by linking them with

demographic, economic and

Aqaba working on

AQABA (Petra) - Acting

president of the Agaba Re-

Jonal Authority Fayez Kha-

sawneh Wednesday said the

authority is working on de-

veloping the region by pre-

paring scientific studies and

clans. At a meeting with a

ielegation representing resi-

ients of All Disa-area, Dr.

Khasawneh said the authority

is determined to organise the

tourism sector in Rum and Al

Disa areas in a manner be-

nefiting the residents of the

two areas. Dr. Khasawneh

also met with leaders of Al

tribes in Al Risheh and

Qureiqirah areas and stressed

the importance of coopera-

tion among citizens in agri-

cultural projects and in using

available resources to supple-

ment the incomes of poor

UNIMED explore

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President

Fawzi Gharaibeh Wednesday

met with a delegation from

the Rome-based University

of the Mediterranean (UN-

IMED) for talks on enhancing cooperation between the

two universities in scientific

and academic fields as part of

the activities of the

Mediterranean centre which

will be opened here in the

uture. Discussion also fo-

ased on means of develop-

ing programmes offered by

the University of Jordan and

the Ministry of Tourism to

prospective tour guides.

University,

cooperation

Sa cedeen

development

Seminar to

address

social aspects.

He added that the corporation will enjoy a monopoly over the service in Amman, but will go into a partnership with the pri-vate sector in the other governorates.

'First multi-channel

"The governorates of Zarqa, Irbid and Ma'an will be provided with the service through JRTVC and the Arab Media Company," Mr. Ramzi added. The Arab Media Company (AMC) is a Jordanian subsidary of the Saudi Ara-bia Radio and Television Network owned by Sheikh Saleh Abdullah Kamel.

The Cabinet Tuesday approved a request by AMC to establish a joint venture with JRTVČ to provide the three governo-rates with the MMDS serpay JD15 per month with no initial downpayment as was announced earlier. JRTVC had announced

last year that subscribers would have to pay a JD150 refundable insurance payment for the decoder set, JD150 for an initial installation fee, and JD10 per month in subscription fees. "Subscribers will now

pay JD15 per month for five television channels. These channels will be CNN International, BBC International, the Arabic movies channel, a foreign movies channel, and a joint channel for children's programmes in the morning and sports in the evening." Mr. Ramzi said.

He added that the number of channels would be increased to eight in the

IAF plans solidarity rally in support of Chechenya

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Isla- would damage the interests mic Action Front (IAF) party Wednesday called on the citizens of Zarqa to gather for a public rally Friday at IAF headquarters on the Amman

Zarqa highway. A copy of the announcement, which was made available to the Jordan Times, said that the rally was designed to show solidarity with the Chechen Muslim people now facing a Russian attack on their country.

The IAF last week sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin urging his country to end military intervention in Chechenya and stressing that armed conflict

of both the Russian and the Chechen peoples.
The IAF statement

Wednesday said that the rally, which will be organised at 1:00 p.m. is expected to be addressed by the following Islamists: Mohammad Al Haj, Yaser Omari, Nabil Shichani, Abdullah Haddad and Daifallah Al Khalaileh.

In its Dec. 23 message to President Yeltsin, the IAF warned that the conflict in Chechenya was bound to trigger a long war of attrition, with the two sides paying a heavy price similar to conflicts in Afghanistan and

ACC loans farmers, developers JD14.3m

AMMAN (Petra) - The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) granted a total of 1014.3 million in leans to farmers and land developers during 1994, benefitting 5,687 farmers and farm owners, according to a statement Wednesday by ACC Director General Mohammad Ara-

loans were used to finance the reclamation of land, the purchase of farm implements, the construction of poultry farms, the purchase of agricultural inputs and machinery.

Nearly 80 per cent of the loans went to small farmers. and 70 per cent of the total number of borrowers were first-time ACC loan recipients, added Mr. Arabiyat. Last year borrowers repaid JD12.3 million to the ACC, compared to JD10.5 million

m 1993, Mr. Arabiyat said. According to the director general the total amount of loans to farmers at the start of year stood at JD13.6 million, but the ACC is now rescheduling loan repayments on an instalment basis in view of the difficult circumstances resulting from the past agricultural season.

Mr. Arabiyat said he expects that more farmers would borrow from the ACC over the next few years because the ACC expects increased land development and exports in the wake of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and the opening of new markets for Jordanian agricultural produce in Arab

Gulf states and Europe. Mr. Arabiyat expects ACC loan applications would amount to no less than JD98 million over the next four

Commerce groups sign twinning protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Federations of Chambers of Commerce in Jordan and Palestine Wednesday announced a "twinning pro-

of the Federation of Jorda-I nian Chambers of Com-

tocol" to promote coopera-Haidar Murad, chairman

merce, told the Jordan Times that under the protocol the two federations will work to facilitate the passage of trade

and economic information. Mr. Murad said the Jordanian federation is awaiting visits by Palestinian businessmen to explore areas of joint investment and trade.

Petra, UPI sign uplink agreement

By Khattab Salman Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian official press entered the interna-tional arena Wednesday with the signing of a satellite transmission agreement between United Press International (UPI) and the Jordan News

Agency, Petra.
The transmission will be carried out through UPI satellites providing uplinks covering Europe and the Middle East, the Pacific Rim and Asia, and North Amer-

According to the agree-ment, Petra will transmit in English and Arabic to UPI's offices all over the world, which in turn will retransmit to its subscribers. UPI is owned by the U.S.-

based Worldwide News, Inc, which is partly owned by a group of Saudi Arabian businessmen who reportedly saved the corporation from bankruptcy two years ago. The one-year, automatically renewable agreement states that UPI will provide

cost, and will provide Petra's reports to any subscriber who wishes to receive them. UPFs 15 satellites global network will carry Petra's 50,000 words-daily bulletin. in addition to a downlink

through local offices of UPI

its own wires to Petra at no

by a lease line or a satellite

In addition, Petra's wires can be received by satellite dish receivers receiving the Middle East Broadcasting Centre transmission in the Middle East, and those receiving NBC in the United States with the help of a decoder that can be linked to

their receivers.
The 24-hour, 300 bauds per second channel will carry Petra's reports under Petra's name with no editorial changes to the content of the agency's reports, but at the same time UPI will not be liable or responsible for the redistributed reports.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Information Jawad Anani and UPI Executive Editor and Vice President Raphael Calis.

Dr. Anani said after the signing ceremony that Jordan aims at tapping international news technology which can be achieved through this agreement.

He said that the agreement would also provide Jordan with feedback channels as well as a good opportunity to enhance cooperation among Arab news agencies.

Mr. Calis said that the

agreement was signed in accordance with a decision taken by the Federation of Arab News Agencies

Minister of Information Jawad Anani and Raphael Calis sign a satellite transmission United Press International Vice President

agreement (Petra photo)

(FANA) at its conference in Beirut last month, to encourage FANA members to transmit their news internationally via satellite uplinks.

He said that this agreement with Petra is the UPI's first with a FANA member, and that similar agreements will be signed in the future with other Arab news agencies. He added that UPI views this agreement not only as a

business deal, but more as an alliance and partnership between Petra and UPI.

Director General of Petra Abdullah Ottoum said that the agreement "places Petra in a position to transmit news internationally, especially at this important period in the region's history in the wake of signing the Jordanian-

Israeli peace treaty." The Cabinet approved the

agreement two weeks ago after the FANA meeting in Beirut on Dec. 17.

Mr. Ottourn noted that this service will allow Jordan to transmit news about its affairs and principles, and that Petra will initiate its transmission via 3 satellites covering 20 areas around the world including Jordan's two information bureaus in Washington and London.

He said Jordanian-Israeli

cooperation could expand

to include Egyptian and

Palestinian businessmen

and benefit the Middle

East region as a whole. As

and when Israel makes

peace with Syria and Leba-

non, the business com-

munities from those coun-

tries could also join, he

Mr. Gillerman lamented

the state of relations be-

tween Egyptian and Israeli

private sectors'as "a big dis-

Visiting Israeli team expects trade with Jordan soon

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Israeli business group wound up a three-day visit to Jordan after talks with businessmen here on trade links and possibilities of joint ventures in various sectors of the economy.

Summing up the results of the visit, Dan Gillerman, president of the Israeli Federation of Chambers of Commerce, told a press conference that he expected trade to begin soon between Jordan and Israel, setting an example for Egypt, whose private sector economic ties with the Jewish state remain largely stagnant despite the Camp David peace agreements of

Mr. Gillerman, whose 25-member delegation included Israeli industrialists, importers hankers a tour operators, said the discussions the team held here covered possibilities of joint projects which could take advantage of Israel's privileged trade status with North American and European countries.

The Israeli team met with the chairman, and board of the Jordanian Federation of Chambers of Commerce as well as a large segment of the Kingdom's private sector during the visit which began on Monday.

The delegation was visiting Petra late Wednesday before returning home across the Wadi Araba Crossing in the south, one of the most visible signs of the state of peace between Jordan and Israel.

Among the delegation members were the heads of some of the largest importing and distributing firms as well as department stores in Israel, who discussed the possibilities of importing Jordanian products, but



bers of Commerce Dan Gillerman (centre) and Israeli businessman Yacob Nimrodi (right)

President of the Israeli Federation of Cham- and interpreter M. Barak Wednesday hold a press conference after a three-day visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

there was no word whether any concrete deals were finalised.

he expected the Israeli government to permit the import of some Jordanian products even before the two countries formalise a trade accord in May this

Among the delegation members was Jacob Nimrodi, a former Israeli military officer and arms dealer who played a key role in the transfer of arms to Iran in exchange for American hostages held in Lebanon in what came to be known

as the Iran-contra scandal. In comments to the Associated Press in an interview, Mr. Nimrodi said he was no longer interested in the arms trade and was seeking to invest in Jordan in agriculture and tourism.

Mr. Nimrodi, whose leading business associates include Saudi Arabian millionaire Adnan Khashoggi, said he was planning to build a 500-room hotel on the Jordanian shore of the Red Sea and another hotel near the Dead Sea in partnership with a Jordanian hotelier.

Mr. Nimrodi, who was born in Iraq before his family migrated to Israel when the Jewish state was created in 1948, and served as Israel's military attache in Tehran for many years, said he also wanted to invest in Jordan's agri-

culture sector. Mr. Nimrodi, who now heads a Tel Aviv-based holding company, is known to have approached the Palestine National Authority (PNA) with proposals to build industrial projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to develop the Palestinian agriculture sec-

In his comments at the press conference, Mr. Gillerman said Jordanian and Israeli businessmen were serious in their efforts to launch joint projects and establish close trade relations, an interest he attributed to the policies adopted by His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin. However, he said, he

found an obvious reluctance on the part of Jordanian businessmen to adopt a fast pace in negotiations if only because they wanted to see progress in Israel's

peace talks with Syria and

Lebanon and an overall

peace settlement taking hold in the region. Mr. Gillerman said his discussions here also covered the 160 joint Jordanian-Israeli projects that were presented as proposals at the Casabianca conference on economic development of the Middle East and North Africa held late last year and issues related to an Amman conference to be held in mid-

1995 as a follow-up to the Casablanca gathering. The Israeli delegation head emphasised the need to develop economic relations and cooperation between Jordan and Israel to maintain and foster the state of peace between them and to enable the people to reap the economic dividends of peace beyond the shifts in the political climate in the re-

appointment," and said that he believed that "with Jordan, things could hap-ipen much quicker." "Jordan and Israel will do it quickly, and they will set a model to show that it can be done," he said.
"Now that Israel and Jor-

dan are getting so close together we can see also the Egyptians waking up. This is part of competition now that they are no more alone in this club of peacemak-According to Reuters, an

opinion poll published in Cairo on Wednesday showed that most Egyptians have no wish to visit Israel, buy Israeli goods or let Israeli factories be built in Egyptian territory.

Mr. Gillerman said representatives of Israeli banks in his delegation had signed five cooperation accords with Jordanian counterparts. He did not

It was not immediately known whether any Israeli bank was seeking to establish branches in Jordan.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has said that there was no hurdle for Israeli banks to set up operations in the Kingdom under the prevailing rules and regulations that govern commercial banking in the country, and that they would be treated as any other foreign commercial bank in Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

CUBAN FILM WEEK

* Film entitled "La Bella de la Albambra" at Instituto

Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at

FILM ☆ Film entitled "Around the World in 80 Days" at the

American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

CONCERTS "Hard Rock" concert by Maybe band at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Our concert by Salman Shukur at the Royal Cultural

Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m. EXHIBITIONS

REAL PROPERTY OF STREET, STREE Funnu. Also showing an exhibition of portraits by Fabrelaism Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary

Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamem Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shousan Foundation.

Ministry reviews recipients of staple ration coupons

By Samir Barhoum Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A total of 3,747,000 Jordanians of an estimated 3,800,000 entitled to receive ration coupon cards enabling them to purchase basic staples at governmentsubsidised prices used the coupons in 1994, according to Ministry of Supply offi-

Ministry Secretary General Mustafa Khleifat said that of the 716,757 families registered at the ministry, only 650,000 used their ration coupons, which entitle them to purchase rice, sugar and milk at subsidised prices. The difference prompted the ministry to conduct a review of the number of families who will get the coupons in the fu-

Mr. Khleifat said that of a total of about 50,000 Palestinian refugees from Gaza who hold temporary two-year Jordanian pass-

referred to as Gazans, 49.500 used the ration coupons last year.

A recent census by the

Statistics Department showed that the population of Jordan stands at 4,095,579, with 3,779,118 Jordanians and 316,461 foreigners. Only Jordanians and Gazans are entitled to receive ration coupons, introduced by the ministry in 1990 to save funds budgeted by the government to subsidise basic food supplies.

The head of the Coupons Department at the ministry, Mohammad Abu Shakra, said that by mid-January the ministry will have completed all the studies on the number of beneficiaries for 1995, noting that the ministry started distributing the 1995 coupons about three months ago. Mr. Abu Shakra said be-

neficiaries will this year re-ceive the cards only once

instead of three times a year as was the routine earlier to save them extra effort and to reduce bureaucratic procedures. But he stressed that each set of the coupons will be valid for four months and urged beneficiaries to use them before their expiry

According to ministry regulations, each eligible Jordanian adult is entitled to 1.5 kilogrammes of rice, and 1.5 kilogrammes of sugar monthly, in addition to one kilogramme of powdered milk every three

Mr. Abu Shakra said Jordan spent JD 15 million in 1994 to subsidise the basic food commodities purchased by coupons.

The Kingdom used to spend up to JD 60 million per year for food subsidies in the late 1980s. It has gradually brought down the amount by introducing the coupons in 1990.

sought by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the economic restructuring programme prescribed for Jordan was the withdrawal of subsidies.

Jordan resisted IMF pressure and sought instead to reduce spending in other sectors and only gradually cut the subsidies.

As one method of reducing amounts spent on subsidising staples, the government decided to distribute food coupons only to families with an annual income of less than 6,000, but according to Mr. Abu Shakra, the decision was never implemented.

He said it was difficult for the ministry to define the incomes of families and it ruled out using data collected by the Statistics Department last month. The ministry, he added, counts families in the Kingdom based on the number of family registration books.

while the Department of Statistics counts all people living in one house as one family regardless of the number of family registration books within that household.

To avoid any injustice, the ministry opted to ignore the income bracket method and to continue to offer coupons to all those entitled, he said.

Last month, Minister of Supply Adel Qudah stressed that the government will continue to subsidise basic food commodities, saving that in 1994 the government budgeted JD 40 million alone to subsidise

Mr. Qudah told a Parliament session that the government will continue to subsidise the prices of wheat, flour, sugar, rice, powdered milk, frozen

chicken, and olive oil. He said all these commodities were imported at international prices and

lower prices, noting that the subsidy policy would continue despite the fluctuation of prices in international markets.

He said that in 1994 the price of a tonne of wheat rose on the international market from \$119 to \$175. sugar went from \$340 to \$462 per tonne, rice from \$280 to \$418 per tonne and dried milk from \$23 a carton to \$35.

According to Mr. Khleifat, Jordan consumes 650,000 tonnes of wheat annually, of which only 50,000 are produced locally. The government, he said, pays JD 8 million to buy the locally produced wheat before reselling it at

subsidised prices. Mr. Khleifat said Jordan annually consumes 500,000 tonnes of barley, 350,000 tonnes of corn. 170,000 tonnes of sugar, 80,000 tonnes of rice as well as 750,000 cartons of powdered milk.

PARIS (R) - France's unde- that time is running short. clared campaign for the presidency has shifted into a highет gear as election hopefuls such as Prime Minister Edouard Balladur prepare to declare themselves as candidates within the next two weeks

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dominated politics ahead of the April/May contest to succeed Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, who will step down after 14 years in power. But Mr. Balladur has now

told ministers in his centreright government that they are free to express their personal preferences for candidates, officials said Wednesday.
"The rule was that we

shouldn't speak of the elections before January. We're in January so we can talk, we will talk." government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy told reporters. Mr. Balladur, widely ex-

pected to run and whose fellow-Gaullist rival Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac declared his candidacy last month, has acknowledged

Sri Lanka

ceasefire

expected

before

Jan. 14

Wednesday.

activities.

COLOMBO (AFP) - A

truce between Sri Lanka gov-ernment forces and Tamil Ti-

ger guerrillas will come into

force on Jan. 14 to coincide

with a new round of peace

talks, Information Minister

Dharmasiri Senanayake said

A "cessation of hostilities"

will be in place before the

third round of talks with the

Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Eeiam (LTTE) in the rebel-

held northern Jaffna peninsu-

la on Jan. 14, the minister

He said both sides had

agreed to invite foreigners to

monitor the truce. The minis-

ter said the move was not a

formal ceasefire but an infor-

mal agreement to stop hostile

Military officials said the

agreement could be upgraded

to a ceasefire, depending on

the initial response from Ti-

gers who have been fighting

to establish an independent

A statement from Presi-

dent Chandrika Kumaratun-

ga's office Wednesday said

the government wanted the

LTIE to suggest dates for

substantive negotiations but

there had been no response

yet from the rebels.
"The LTTE has not yet

agreed to commence peace

talks." the statement said re-

ferring to substantive nego-

tiations to hammer out a

solution to the conflict which

has claimed over 30,000 lives

It said there was also no

agreement on opening a land

route to Jaffna where the

LTTE maintains its own

police, civil administration

and communication systems.

and the LTTE so far have

focused on economic issues in

LTTE-held regions as well as

the need to stop the fighting.

president was expected to

give details of the discussions

with the LTTE and her

efforts to resolve the ethnic

Mrs. Kumaratunga, a

member of the majority

Sinhalese community, has

agreed in principle to grant

greater autonomy to ethnic famils but the amount of

authority to be devolved re-

Despite the initial euphoria

expressed by the head of the

government peace mission af-

ter Tuesday's talks, other

Tamil parties and political

analysts say the country is

sall a long way from peace.

tor Dharmalingam Sidhartan.

whose deputy was killed by

suspected Tiger gummen on

New Year's Eve, said he

wanted an "all encompassing

ceasefire" with guarantees of

hostilities. But some deter-

rent or a monitoring mechan-

ism is necessary given the record of the LTTE," said L.

Keethiswaran, the spokes-

man of the leftist Eelam Peo-

ple's Revolutionary Libera-

Previous ceasefires have

ended in disaster leading to

more violence. Analysts be-

heve the latest truce bid may

also fail unless it was coupled

with political negotiations.

non Front.

"We favour a cessation of

Anti-LTTE Tamil legisla-

mains a thorny issue.

Mr. Senanayake said the

Talks between Colombo

in 23 years.

officials said.

conflict Friday.

homeland called Eelam.

Anxious to capitalise on his aloof nature above the political fray, Mr. Balladur has always stressed that he is too busy to think about the election but has promised to decide this month.

The covert campaign has Shadow-boxing has so far divided the government. made up of Mr. Balladur's and Mr. Chirac's - Rally For the Republic (RPR) and of the centrist Union for French Democracy (UDF). The RPR is split while most UDF members favour the more moderate Balladur.

This week. Dominique Perben, the RPR minister for overseas territories, became the latest cabinet member behind Mr. Balladur. Other including Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, back Mr. Chir-

ac.
"Now we're going to see
one minister after another declaring his support for one candidate or the other. It's a hateful spectacle, and it's not what a presidential election is about." Socialist leader Henri Emmanuelli complained U.K. alleged killer's

LONDON (AFP) - The

daughter of alleged serial kil-ler Frederick West tried to

kill herself just hours after her father's death, the tabloid

Today newspaper reported

Anne Marie West, 30, took

an overdose, but was found

by her boyfriend and taken to

hospital, said the paper, adding that she had been

distraught at news of her

father's apparent suicide Sun-

terrible state. She had been

abused by Fred but she still

stood by him." an aunt told

According to Today, Anne

Marie had regularly visited

It said she had been in-

creasingly concerned for his

sanity, and that Mr. West had

admitted before Christmas he

Anne Marie was under-

stood to have told police her

fears, and Mr. West was put

under special watch at the

prison where he was held in

Birmingham, the English

But that watch was later

relaxed, after it was consi-

CALCUTTA (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Nara-

simha Rao staunchly de-

fended his free-market eco-

nomic policies Wednesday,

saying he had not sold off the

nation's interests to fore-

igners and would pursue

Mr. Rao, facing unrest

from his Congress Party be-

fore state poils next month

and general elections next

year, brushed aside critics

liberalisation programme has sacrificed India's teeming

poor and hurt his political

party.
"I should like to announce

with no hesitation that we are

firmly committed to our re-

forms programme and shall

move forward with confi-dence, Mr. Rao told an

International Business Con-

ference in the eastern city of

Confederation of Indian In-

dustries, billed by senior

aides as a major policy

speech, left little doubt he

would continue dismantling

barriers to trade and invest-

backed economic reforms.

ment. He said the nation

"I am aware that the path of reforms is not a bed of

roses," he said, adding liber-

alisation meant tough politic-

"But like many countries

which have attempted liber-

alisation, have worked

through it and have per-

formed economic miracles, I

am convinced that this is also

the appropriate approach for

us at this juncture," he said.

Mr. Rao has come under

pressure from critics within

his ruling Congress Party to

slow down the liberalisation

drive and offer greater wel-

fare benefits to ordinary peo-

Congress was routed in

state elections last month and

faces tough battles in another

five states beginning in

February. General elections

Mr. Rao's leading Con-gress rival, former Human

are due in 1996.

al choices.

Mr. Rao's address to the

who claim his three-year

more reforms.

wanted to take his life.

her father in prison.

Anne Marie was in a

Wednesday.

the paper.

Midlands.

"I fear that Balladur will manage not the affairs of France but instead his own election campaign." he told Europe-1 Radio.

Sources close to Mr. Balladur quoted by French newspapers said he was expected to throw his hat into the ring just after an extraordinary session of parliament due to end on Jan. 16.

The daily Liberation reported Mr. Balladur's camp had already chosen its campaign headquarters, a building conveniently close to his Matignon offices on the left bank or the Seine River.

The newspaper said that Balladur supporters met Tuesday to organise the campaign and set up regional committees — due to include elected officials from the RPR and UDF in equal numbers - to coordinate efforts

at grass-roots level. Budget Minister Sarkozy, a leading light in the Balladur camp, urged the premier however not to show his hand too soon because of the disarray among the opposition

A post-mortem examina-

tion Tuesday confirmed that

Mr. West - who was

charged with murdering 12

women and girls, including his first wife and two of his

daughters — died from "cerebral anoxia due to hang-

The prosecution of Mr.

West's wife Rosemary is ex-

pected to go ahead next

month, the detective heading

the Cromwell Street inquiry

said Tuesday, despite Mr.

At a news conference in

Gloucester, southern Eng-

land, Detective Superinten-

dent Bennett admitted the

apparent suicide of Mr. West

on New Year's Day had

"complicated" the inquiry.

committal proceedings

against Mr. West's wife

would go ahead as scheduled

in Dursley. Gloucestershire.

Mr. Bennett's remarks

came as the Crown Prosecu-

tion Service announced it was

considering the implication of

Mr. West's death Sunday in a

prison cell in Birmingham.

Resources Minister Arjun

Singh, challenged the prime

minister by resigning his

cabinet post last month. Mr.

Singh accused Mr. Rao of

failing to put a "human face"

on reforms and ignoring cor-

But Mr. Rao said he had

offered special schemes to

sections of society bypassed

by the benefits of liberalisa-

tion, including small firms, and would continue to do so

without relying on short-term

the economy.
"I have laid emphasis on

the human face from the very

beginning," he said in a direcretort to Mr. Singh.

Rahul Bajaj, chairman of

India's leading scooter-maker

Bajaj Auto, said he was reas-

sured by Mr. Rao's speech.
There was a fear that liber-

alisation would be set back.'

'palliatives" that could hurt

case against his wife.

But he said he believed

ing", police said.

West's death.

on Feb. 6.

dered Mr. West was not at the English Midlands, on the

India's Rao stands up

for free-market reforms

daughter 'tried suicide'

"As long as there is no official Socialist candidate. all the others are running around like headless chickens." he said.

Further to the right, anti-Maastricht campaigner Philippe de Villiers will announce his candidacy Sunday, the daily Ouest-France said Wednesday. Another possible candidate is centreright ex-Premier Raymond Barre, who has no party ties.

With the Socialists shattered by the refusal to outgoing European Commission head Jacques Delors to stand. Mr. Emmanuelli pledged the party would find a candidate by early Febru-

"All I can say is that our candidate must have wide support in the Socialist movement, as well as support outside it, and be ready to spear-head a real debate," he said.

Mr. Mitterrand himself is rumoured to favour former Interior and Defence Minister Pierre Joxe, but other possible Socialist candidates include Mr. Emmanuelli and ex-Premier Pierre Mauroy.

Angolan, rebel army leaders to meet on

peace accord

LUANDA (R) — Angola's army chief and the UNITA rebels' senior military officer have agreed to meet for talks expected to thrash out problems over the shaky ceasefire in their long war.

The state daily Jornal De Angola said Wednesday army General Joao De Matos and UNITA's Arlindo Chenda Pena "Ben Ben" would meet in the central highlands province of Huambo, scene of some of the worst fighting in the latter stages of the conflict.

Both sides accuse each other of launching attacks despite the peace accord and ceasefire agreed in November - the latest of several attempts to end nearly 20 vears of war.

A joint government-UNITA commission to oversee implementation of the truce has held several sessions in Luanda but has failed to reach agreement on issues under discussion.

Diplomats in Luanda said a meeting between the two chiefs of staff could help dispel some of the deep distrust between the government and members of Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola

No date was announced but the U.N.'s special representative to Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, said Saturday he expected the meeting to take place this week.

Jornal De Angola said the meeting between Gen. De Matos and Gen. Ben Ben could take place between the government-held provincial capital of Huambo and the lown of Bailundo, 65 kilometres to the north.

two-thirds of the lower It also authorise setting up an administrative court which

Wednesday he would be back

King Sihanouk said for three and a half months before returning to Beijing for medical checks. "His health, according to

his doctors, is very good, exellent. That's why he is able to come back to the country, government spokesman Sieng Lapresse said. "We hope is going to stay here permanently. Mr. Lapresse said the king

would spend only a short time in the capital before leaving for Siem Reap in the northwest, the site of the ancient 12th-century Angkor "His Majesty is expected

to spend about one week in Phnom Penh, then move to the royal residence of Siem Reap where he wants to spent time resting," he said. Between 15,000 and 20,000

capital waving paper flags

Local politicians and West-

ern diplomats agreed the key amendment is the reduction

of the voting age, which will

increase the number of eligi-

ble voters and make vote-

buying more difficult and

was previously the preserve of a succession of coup-

makers. Wednesday's vote

reforms a charter drawn up

under a junta known as the

National Peace Keeping

Council, after the army over-

threw the elected govern-ment of Chatichai Choonha-

Although the junta was

dissolved before elections in

1992, former members were

instrumental in nominating

unelected General Suchinda

Kraprayoon as prime minis-ter, a miscalculation which

strations in may that year.

Amending the constitution

more expensive.

van in 1991.

against the state.

and flowers. Boulevards were decorated with banners reading: "Long live the king father and queen mother and "long live peace and national reconciliation".

King Sihanouk appeared touched by the welcome and waved enthusiastically from his car.

Mr. Lapresse said King Sihanouk's cabinet office would be temporarily moved to Siem Reap and 'announcements" were expected.

He said King Sihanouk "might take up some kind of state duties", adding that the king had asked for a simple welcome without any parades The French colonial power

crowned Sihanouk king in 1941 when he was 18, believing he would be more impressionable than other royal candidates. Instead, he showed a flair for diplomacy and snatched independence from France 12 years later.

steeple, but in her letter But and Republicans take dot attacked the mayor for slot the U.S. Congress attacking "that universe the dramatic action on symbol of fragile peace that work is a frame of government of the dove." Last year, Bardet and the size of government of the Brigitte Bardet in the size of government of the Brigitte Bardet in pump, circumstance Foundation, pleaded for the times usually reserved life of a wolf hiding out in the presidential inaugural. Vosges Mountains of easter in lawmaker Newt France which has so far killed in will be elected France which has so far killed will be elected \$2 farm animals, including \$2 for the House of Repsheep, 22 lambs and two ares and Republicans rams. In June she fell on the mediately begin a solve on his sweep town of Saint-Tropez after the municipality authorises the holding of a hunters' coat ference, and left the France for acceptance of the House itself... In June she attacked Italian states the House itself... In June she attacked Italian states the holding of a hunter's coat for acceptance with the Sensitive platform. The she attacked Italian states the house itself... In June she attacked Italian states the house itself... In June she attacked Italian states the house itself... It is the she attacked Italian states the house itself... It is the she attacked Italian states the house itself... It is the she attacked Italian states the house itself... It is the she attacked Italian states the house itself... It is the she attacked Italian states the house itself... It is the she attacked Italian states the house itself... It is the she attacked to a meet the she attacked to a meet the she attacked itself in the she attacked to a meet the she attacked itself in the she attacked to a meet the she attacked itself in the she attacked to a meet the she attacked itself in the she attacked to a meet the she attacked itself in the she attacked to a meet the she attacked itself in the she attacked itself in

Mr. Chatichai Choonha-

morale-booster after the problems of the past," said a Western diplomat.

"At least this puts the question behind the government," said another diplo-mat. "The government can argue that it has fulfilled its

islanders. tourists free

SYDNEY (R) — A jubilar team of marine experts and volunteers Wednesday free 15 starving dolphins that two weeks in a lagoon on the two weeks in a lagoon on the South Pacific island nation of York (R) — The teers said. Hundreds of island outders and tourists, under the acts and tourists, under the acts appeared in a transcript reguidance of Australian to says in a television trying over the past two days at hillary Clinton is "a phins from the shallow is to release the spinner dolors."

Ohio said this Ohio said this object. SYDNEY (R) — A jubilan

in the lagoon. A total of the lagoon with the lagoon in the lagoon is the lagoon waters of the lagoon water with the lagoon water with lagoon water with lagoon water wa ated by the allies in World swim out because of the resulting in the Post five mouth of the lagoon. For it and allegations by have died of starvation and the lagorithms by have died interview.

Ms. Cowper, who co-manages the lagorithms bill Clinton. Erakor Island resort. The 15th interview dolphins freed Wednesday

across a sandy spit to the see,

into the net," Ms. Cowper, said, adding that an attempt

to free the others would be

"Therefore, should this

Honda for alleged **Bond 'ripoff'**

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MOTON (R) - The

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Ses suffering from

realist coral Luigi published tilks on political state-iby a political state-iby as a specula-published as a specula-SANTA MONICA, Califor. nia (R) — Metro-Goldwyn. Mayer Inc said Tuesday it the James Bond films, filed a lawsuit against Aman rionda Motor Co Inc for allegedly "ripping off" the James Bond character in a television commercial.

MGM, which distribute the large of the large o television commercial.

MGM, which distributes the James Bond films for Danjaq James Bond films for Danjaq and co-owns rights to the Bond character, filed suit in U.S. District Court, claiming that "Honda's ad unabashed. ly rips off MGM's and Danjaq's exclusive intellecture property rights to exploit James Bond for Honda's commercial gain." A spokes woman for American Hondasaid the company had reand was reviewing it. The company had no other company had no other company had no other company had so other company had so other company had no other company had so other comp cial for the convertible version of Honda's Civic Del Sol, and state world War sion of Honda's Civic Del Sol, as seekend, car blatantly exploits the car blatantly exploits the Bond character. In addition to cribbing wholesale the distance of parliament in the cribbing wholesale the configuration of parliament in the cribbing wholesale the configuration of parliament in the cribbing wholesale the cr Bond character in admition to cribbing wholesale the surf Scalfare LucJames Bond character and surf Scalfare Lucimage and duplicating exactly surfively swift the total look and feel of a James Bond film, the Honda ad is a pastiche of actual scenes from various Bond movies," the lawsuit said.

Bardot calls for pigeon birth control

BESSIERES, France (AFP), and its report Tuesday

— Animal lover Brigitte Bar-, so with Republicans
that protested a plan to similar investigation
this southwestern French vil., rigid real estate deal
lage and is urging the birds had as doged the admilage and is urging the birds ber is dogged the admigiven contraceptive seeds in the of President Bill stead. In a letter to all their villagers, the 60-year-old film is lepublican minority star said: "There are more six was "a good possi-humane solutions, notable in the president and contraceptive seeds avoiding theor got confidential excessive proliferation of the min about a govern-tingons." The market of Post impristion into the pigeons." The mayor of Best mesigation into an Interior Minister Charles

> "Tomerray another and ius: endiner trumpetad u fi the Republic Committee : USA Taday b When the g the House a noon, Republic

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who battled the en-Democratic major-

ears, was slated to ^{No} Republican galas secial prayer service Vanuatu dolphins kis iomal election as

to release the spinner do phins from the shallow is comment by Kathleen al. Port Vila. "Everyone is in a CBS intersome of them have been some of them have been the Cowper told Reuters from that at least in the lagoon. A total of 20 in the lagoon.

in the past five Carolina Senator Jesse the interview to be Musday on CBS- 5 she said. 'But there were a few dolphins that did not ge

were herded into a corner of the lagoon Wednesday after the lagoon Wednesday after the lagoon wing a large net and the lagoon what her had blankers to blankers the lagoon what her could vote the lagoon will be about President White about President answered: "The the ever told me is That he's an than That he's not she said: but he's intellimade on Thursday morning.

the first time after elections that gave them tories over i Clinton's Den The focus v House, where has led his par a 100-day legi fulfil promise contract with document th positions on from welfare

Much of da could drag int of Thursday up by debate eight internal ing making th

Ohio said this

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"My boy Ne

Gingrich added: other ably more ably more a De itil you what he said I'm a Der

a cancer treatment. King Sihanouk will stay in Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk waves to Cambodia for three months (AFP photo) wellwishers Wednesday upon arriving from Beijing, where he has been recuperating from

Sihanouk returns home in good health weeks in April and May last

PHNOM PENH (R) — A smiling and healthy-looking King Norodom Sihanouk returned to Cambodia Wednesday afternoon after prolonged cancer treatment abroad, to an enthusiastic and colourful welcome from thousands of people. King Sihanouk, accompa-

nied by his wife Queen Monique, arrived at Phnom Penh's Airport aboard a North Korean plane. "I miss you, I miss you all

very much. Thank you, thank vou. I'm recovered now, thank you," he told the crowds. He was welcomed by copremiers Prince Norodom

Ranariddh, his son, and Hun Sen, the president of the National Assembly, Chea Sim and diplomats and senior government officials.
King Sihanouk. 72, has

been undergoing treatment in Beijing for cancer and other ailments since October 1993. He last returned home for six

BANGKOK (R) - Thai-

land's parliament Wednesday

overwhelmingly passed a his-

toric package of amendments

to the constitution that aim to

broaden democracy in a

country long plagued by

Thailand has seen at least

17 successful or attempted

coups since the end of abso-

lute monarchy in 1932.

Scores of pro-democracy pro-

testers were gunned down in

The 360 elected members

of the lower house and 270

appointed senators voted 591

to one in a joint session of parliament to approve

amendments which include a

tion of centuries-old discri-

mination against women.

unger voting age and aboli-

There was one abstention

"Compared to previous

president of the parlia-

and the remainder failed to

constitutions, this amended

one provides more democra-

ment Marut Bunnag told re-

The new constitution,

backed by the government of

Prime Minister Chuan Leek-

pai, includes amendments

lowering the voting age to 18 from 20, ensuring equal

rights for women and reduc-

ing the members of the

military-dominated senate to

May 1992.

porters.

people lined the streets of the

Thailand approves constitutional changes

The first snag in was in March when the Senate unexpectedly voted with the opposition to defeat the government's first package of amendments, which would have slashed the number of

half the present 270. The process continued after both sides agreed to rejig the proposed amendments in

The coalition, always a fragile marriage of convenience, was threatened after the New Aspiration Party (NAP) defected to the opposition over the local administration

van's Chart Pattana Party saved the day by joining the government in place of the

"This is a considerable

pledge."

was forced to resign.

accused Portugal Wednesday of taking an aggressive stance before fresh U.N.-brokered talks on the troubled territory of East Timor. Foreign Minister Ah Ala-tas told a news conference

be told Reuters. The prime minister said Indonesia hoped the one-day India could not stand by while business barriers came down across the rest of the world. "We cannot remain an island but have to see ourselves as part of the global system," he said.

Mr. Rao acknowledged some unscrupulous people had abused the liberalisation drive but malpractices were no reason to turn back. A large number of bankers. brokers and government officials have been linked to a \$1.3 billion stock market scandal which erupted at the outset of

the economic reforms. "I do not believe the direction in which we are heading needs to be given up merely on account of these incidents," Mr. Rao said.

"Some criticism has been voiced that foreign investors would swamp our economy." Mr. Rao said, referring to complaints that overseas investors have snapped up valuable national resources.

"Neither are we being swamped nor are we seiling away our country." Mr. Rao said, adding that the volume of foreign investment was well below India's needs.

ing year.
They continue to pursue a very aggressive and highly inflammatory attitude to-wards this issue of East Timor, which is not very beipful towards creating confidence and an atmosphere conductive to the solution of

the problem. be said. In East Timor, an official told local reporters that five East Timorese were killed when etame moting swept the

aid one person was killed, a figure repeated by Mr. Alatas Wednesday.

pect the talks will continue on its original intent to find a compromise. Portugal has not changed its attitude. It has not changed its time since

U.N. Secretary-General

Boutros Ghali will chair the meeting in Geneva between Mr. Alatas and his Portuguese counterpart. Jose

thonity.

territory.

He accused Lisbon of vaded.

"We would like to ask the Portuguese what they have done. Unfortunately, I have not seen much of Portugal's implementation of their confidence-building mea-

restraint and contribute to creating a favourable atmosphere, these are things that are expected to Portugal but I do not see much."

has faced dwindling guerrilla resistance to its rule in East Timor. But lingering civilian resentment over Jakarta's rule and the presence of indonesian immigrants has boiled over into riots and protests several times in re-

were killed. There was similar rioting

Residents and diplomats said Wednesday that Baucau

evening. There was a big crowd in the street," one

was still tense. "It was very,

very tense yesterday in the

and Germany have strong claims. But Mr. Alatas told a news conference some developing countries should join at the same time for balance in the Council, whose permanent

ited States. 'We agree in principle that the permanent members should be extended," said Mr. Alatas, whose country became a non-permanent Council member for two years on Jan. 1 and is current leader of the 111-member Non-Aligned Movement. "We believe and support

the argument that if the permanent membership... is extended that Japan and Germany should have strong grounds to be permanent members," he said. Both countries - which with Italy formed the back-

important" world roles, he "However, if we are going to add permanent members it should not consist of Japanand Germany alone because this will mean the permanent members will be more unbalanced than... now," Mr. Alatas said.

bone of the axis powers defe-

War II - were playing "very

happen, at the samme time some developing countries should join."

He said criteria should include equitable geographic distribution, political and economic weighting, size of population and a record of contributing to the solution

Mr. Chatter . sieres, Jean-Paul Seguala sas savings and loan Mr. Chuan declared rewill adjudicate in cases Tucker, n.s. who is a drugs advisor to simmon that involved form of the constitution one Arkansas (**) 5 of his priorities after his coali-One key change that failed Pasqua, is planning to flush rang by both the Senthe pigeons out of the church of the House of Reprealso a figure in tion government was elected to be included would have in September 1992. created new local governtower so they can be shot by see Banking Commit-The process, started almost local hunters, starting Friday,
Mr. Seguala says that the publicans take char
pigeons are particularly ment councils elected for as soon Mr. Chuan took fixed terms. Two amendoffice, had several times ments providing for this were appeared doomed. It came scuttled in December after attracted to Bessieres and an MINGTON (R) — Albadly damaging the church seas in the political steeple, but in her letter Buttags. Republicans take close to bringing down the one party in the ruling coalicoalition altogether. tion joined the opposition to vote against them.

senators to 120 - less than

a bipartisan committee.

led to massive street demon-The army crushed the protest, killing scores of demonstrators and wounding hundreds, but Gen. Suchinda

Indonesia hits out at Portugal over East Timor

JAKARTA (R) - Indonesia

meeting in Geneva Monday would belo achieve a compromise over divergent views on Portugal's former colony. which Indonesia invaded in 1975 and appexed the follow-

towe of Baucau, 180 kilometres east of the capital Dritt. Sandas Indonesia's mintary has

Mr. Alatas said: "We ex-

Manuel Durao Barroso. It is the fifth in a series of U.N.-brokered talks in three years. The United Nations regards Portugal as East Timor's administering au-

Mr. Alatas said Jakarta had sincerely implemented a series of confidence-building measures assigned to it from the fourth round of talks in May 1994. He said these included allowing a U.N. special rapporteur and the foreign press to enter the

doing little to improve dialogue or the underlying situation in mainly Catholic East Timer. Human rights groups say more than 200,000 people have died, many from starvation, since Indonesia in-

sures." he said.

"For instance, to exercise

Mainly Muslim Indonesia

Virgilio Dias Marcal. mayor of Baucau, did not say how the five East Timorese

last November in East Timor's capital Dili, where troops in 1991 shot dead up to 200 marchers at a funeral and sparked an international

diplomat said. Also Wednesday, Mr. Alatas said Indonesia supports in principle an expanded permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council and believes Japan

members are Britain, China, France. Russia and the Un-

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Honda for allegation Flu-ridden Italian president halts crisis talks Mr. Berlusconi and his allies the outgoing pret Thesday, ruling out

ROME (Agencies) — Illness forced President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro to suspend talks on selecting Italy's political stale-Scalfaro to suspend tacks on solving Italy's political stalemate Wednesday as speculation grew he may appoint former head of state Frances-co Cossiga as prime minister.

Mr. Scalfaro, 76, had been

co Cossiga as pundamental descriptions from Mr. Scauaro, 10, 100 due to meet delegations from due to meet delegations from solitical narries due to meet designations all the main political parties usednesday in a second round of talks aimed at solving a deep political crisis sparked by the resignation of Prime Minister Silvio Berluscom on Dec. 22.

E CONTROL OF THE STATE OF THE S But the president's office said the consultations had been suspended because Mr. Scalfaro was suffering from influenza, meaning a further delay in appointing a new prime minister.

The talks had originally been scheduled to end Thursday evening and political commentators had said that Mr. Scalfaro could appoint someone to head Italy's 54th government since World War II by the weekend.

The heads of Italy's two houses of parliament had talks with Mr. Scalfaro Tuesday evening and both expressed optimism that there would be a relatively swift end to the turmoil.

"The crisis is sorting itself out, the skies are growing lighter," said Lower house

Mr. Berlusconi resigned after the federalist Northern League party pulled out of his seven-month-old coalition

last month. The outgoing prime minister and his allies are demanding fresh elections with Mr. Berlusconi proposing March 26 as a date — exactly a year after Italians last voted in general elections.

But the League and opposition centrist and leftist parties say that a broad-based transitional government is required to pass electoral and. institutional reform before Italians return to the ballot

Mr. Scalfaro, arbiter in the crisis, has the difficult job of plotting a way out of the

The president has said that he must be guided by the constitution and cannot dissolve parliament as a majority of its members oppose such a move.

Commentators suggested the outspoken Cossiga, Mr. Scalfaro's predecessor as president, had emerged as favourite to lead a transitional government.

They said the silver-haired Sardinian was combative enough to cope with parliamentary ambushes from

in the Freedom Alliance, Mr. Cossiga is on good terms with many members of the

Alliance. But Clemente Mastelia, labour minister in the Berlusconi government, said Mr. Cossiga was not interested in the job.

"We've just had a meeting with Cossiga ... he has no intention of being part of a game in which there can be no winners," said Mr. Mus-tella of the small Christian

Democratic Centre Party. Other candidates for the job include Treasury Minister Lamberto Dini, a nonpartisan figure who enjoys the backing of the Freedom Alliance. But his chances have been hurt by the Alliance's insistence on early elections.

Economist Mario Monti, a newly appointed European Union commissioner, is the choice of Northern League leader Umberto Bossi while centrist Mario Segni has proposed Antonio Di Pietro, the former judge who spearheaded Italy's war on

Any new governing coalition formed to avert snap Italian elections must be headed by Mr. Berlusconi, senior politicians allied with the outgoing premier said Tuesday, ruling out any compromise on an alternative administration.

The supporters said in a statement that Mr. Berlusconi is the "only leader" from within the coalition led by his Forza Italia party that took power after March elections who can legitimately head a new government enjoying a parliamentary majority.

If such a majority could not be formed, elections "within a short timeframe" are the "obligatory solution" to Italy's current political stale-

In such a case, Mr. Berlusconi would be prepared to back the formation of an "electoral government" headed by a different leader from within the depleted right-wing coalition, they

Although uncompromising in broad terms, the declaration marked a slight softening of the stance of the Berlusconi camp, which had previously insisted on "immediate"

It came at the end of a summit of leaders of Forza Italia, National Alliance and the small Christian Democratic Centre, convened to thrash out a common stand ahead of a planned meeting with President Scalfaro.

winch has week

Clinton. The Republican minority said there was "a good possibility" that the president and Mrs. Clinton got confidential information about a government investigation into an Arkansas savings and loan (SL) institution that involved

Hearings by both the Senate and the House of Representatives Banking Commitcontacts between White House and U.S. Treasury Department officials about

The Senate panel also investigated the suicide in July 1993 of White House deputy Senator Alfonse D'Amato

of New York, the commit-

In hearings last summer,

committees looked into contacts between the Treasury Department and White House on an investigation into the Madison SL institution by the Resolution Trust Corp, the SL clean-up body

authority. Madison was headed by James McDougal, a friend of the Clintons and their partner in the money-losing Whitewater boliday development in Arkansas. Madison collapsed, costing nearly \$50 million.

Both the Clintons and Mr. Tucker were named in "criminal referrals" on Madison by the RTC.

The Republican report rejected the rationale offered at the hearings that the White House needed to know of the criminal referrals so it could be ready to deal with press questions.

does not justify the disclosure to the White House of the existence and details of criminal referrals that mention the president and Mrs. Clinton," the report said.

It also rejected as "obviously spurious" an argument that the White House counsel needed the information to protect the president from meetings which could later be embar-

Bosnia ceasefire marred by fighting in Bihac enclave

U.N. peacekeepers said on Wednesday fighting in the Bosnian enclave of Bihac marred the country's new ceasefire on the eve of a meeting of major powers to discuss how the truce might further the peace process.

The four-month ceasefire between Muslim-led government and Bosnian Serb forces which began on New Year's Day has slowed fighting everywhere but in the northwest enclave of Bihac.

The U.N. reported heavy shelling in the north of the Bihac enclave near Velika Kladusa Tuesday. Some 300 artillery and mortar explosions landed in the vicinity of the town with more overnight, U.N. spokesman Herve Gournelon told Reu-

The United Nations has blamed rebel Serbs from the Krajina region in Croatia and renegade Muslim allies for clashes with Bosnian govern-ment forces but said there was little they could do as the rebel elements were not signatories to the truce.

Diplomats from the fivenation "contact group" on Bosnia, - the United States. Russia, Britain, France and Germany — planned to hold talks in Bonn Thursday to build on the new truce to press for a negotiated settlement of the war, the German

Foreign Ministry said. It said the basis for the talks would be the peace plan drawn up last July and accepted by all parties to the conflict except the Bosnian

The meeting will discuss which steps can be taken to continue the efforts towards a political peace settlement against the background of the ceasefire agreed for Bosnia-Herzegovina," the Foreign Ministry said.

Since the latest truce was proposed in a peace mission by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, diplomats say the major powers appear to have shifted their stance to accommodate Serb demands.

A statement last week by the contact group welcoming the truce cautiously referred to its peace plan as a "starting point" instead of a fixed proposal which they had presented as an ultimatum earlier this year.

Leaders of the Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim-led government, the main warring factions in Bosnia, were due to hold U.N.-mediated talks at Sarajevo Airport to discuss the detailed implementation of the four-month truce accord.

U.N. commander Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose and U.N. civil affairs chief Viktor Andreev

Bosnian army officers for talks on establishing a zone of separation between the two armies and other key elements of the truce.

The truce accord was signed after U.N. shuttle diplomacy persuaded the Bosnian government not to insist on peace in Bihac and the Serbs on a government army pullout from Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo as firm preconditions for the agreement.

But Muslim-led army forces were expected to carry out a pledge to withdraw an estimated 250 soldiers from the demilitarised mountain zone, a U.N. spokesman

U.N. troops would inspect the demilitarised zone Wednesday to begin verifying that all government troops had left. In return, the Serbs were expected to reopen some roads into Sarajevo for civilian traffic this week.

Sarajevo residents got a boost Tuesday when the airport reopened and tram services halted by Serb snipers

The airport, the main aid gateway for Sarajevo's 380,000 residents, had been closed Saturday after a U.N. cargo aircraft skidded into a mudbank after landing in

Meanwhile the copresidents of the Geneva conference on former Yugoslavía Wednesday discussed with Croatian officials and secessionist Serbs how to revamp the infrastructure between Croatia and its separatist Krajina region, Zagreb

Radio said. The talks here focused on the implementation of the Dec. 2 accord in which the Croatian government and the separatists committed themselves to reopening communication lines, water and electricity mains and an oil

pipeline. Lord Owen who represents the European Union said the implementation of the agreement was key to resolving the separatist conflict in Croatia.

Lord Owen and the United Nations Thorvald Stoltenberg first met with Hrvoie Sarinic, cabinet chief of Croatian President Franjo Tudiman.

The three later held talks sat Zagreb Airport with the Croat Serb "Prime Minister" Borislay Mikelic.

Lord Owen and Mr. Stoltenberg had met with Croat Serb leaders Monday at Knin, the main city of Croatia's separatistcontrolled Krajina region.

The two mediators then briefed Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade Tuesday.

Republicans take hard line in Whitewater report WASHINGTON (R) - The tee looked into questionable both the Senate and House

U.S. Senate banking committee issued its report Tuesday on last year's Whitewater hearings, with Republicans vowing further investigation into the failed real estate deal which has dogged the admi-

the investigation. counsel Vincent Foster.

tee's incoming Republican chairman, said Republicans wanted to know what had been talked about at an October 1993 meeting between Mr. Clinton and Jim Guy Tucker, his successor as Arkansas governor who was also a figure in the investiga-

"The 'press leak' rationale that is under U.S. Treasury

Bangladesh opposition announces fresh protests

DHAKA (AFP) - Bangladesh opposition groups Wednesday unveiled fresh protest plans after a third day of general strikes ended without any sign of the government giving in to demands to stand down.

The new protests will begin Jan. 11 and climax on Jan. 19 with an attempt to impose a nationwide road and railway blockade, according to the major parties opposing Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The plans were announced at separate rallies organised by the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Jatiya Party of deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Leaders at the rallies called on Mr. Zia to dissolve parliament and summon fresh elections under a caretaker administration. They repeated their rejection of Mr. Zia's offer to stand down 30 days

ahead of elections due in 1996.

Thousands of police and para-military forces were again on the streets for the third eight-hour stoppage. They chased pickets throwing firecrackers but the most serious incident reported was the burning of a motorcycle by strikers.

In temperatures down to a near record low of six degrees Celsius (43 Fahrenheit), stranded commuters were

able to get to work on rickshaws. And though schools and businesses remained shut, government offices and banks worked with staff.

Witnesses said six people were detained and opposition sources said seven activists were hurt by police baton charges. But Dhaka's main hospital reported no arrivals during the strike.

The opposition threatened to intensify street protests unless Mr. Zia calls elections.

Republicans take charge in Congress

a host of legislation to reduce taxes, cut the size of government and balance the budget.

for a presidential mangural, Georgia lawmaker Newt Gingrich will be elected speaker of the House of Representatives and Republicans will immediately begin a series of votes on his sweep-ing legislative platform, the so-called Contract with

"It's overwhelming, everything from having to take charge of the House itself... to coordinating with the Senate," Mr. Gingrich said Tuesday as he headed to a meeting with incoming Senate majority leader Bob Dole of

Mr. Gingrich, a brash con-servative who battled the entrenched Democratic majority for years, was slated to attend two Republican galas and a special prayer service before his formal election as

The comment by Kathleen

Gingrich, who calls her son "lovable" in a CBS inter-

view, seems likely to cause a

new uproar between the White House and Republi-

cans who take over the U.S.

Congress for the first time in Vears Wednesday.

The two sides have already

cen at odds over Mr. Ging-

rich's claim that a large per-centage of White House staff

took drugs in the past five

years and allegations by Yorth Carolina Senator Jesse

Helms that the military de-

tests President Bill Clinton.

son told her about President

Clinton. She answered: "The

Only thing he ever told me is

Then Mrs. Gingrich added:

promising dramatic action on the Republican National Committee in Tuesday's

When the gavels bang in Amid pomp, circumstance the House and Senate at control of both chambers for the first time in 40 years, after elections last November that gave them sweeping victories over President Bill Clinton's Democrats.

The focus will be on the House, where Mr. Gingrich has led his party in promising a 100-day legislative blitz to fulfil promises made in his contract with America, a document that establishes positions on issues ranging from welfare to taxes.

Much of day one - which could drag into the wee hours of Thursday --- will be taken up by debate and votes on eight internal reforms including making the House subject to the same federal work rules that apply to the rest of the country

Republican Conference Chairman John Boehner of Ohio said this reform is likely

Mrs. Gingrich replied: "She's bitch, about the only

thing he ever said about her.

I think they had some meet-

over... but with Newty there,

say her son could become president "if he wants it."

Asked to describe who her son is, Mrs. Gingrich said: "My boy Newty, that's who Newt Gingrich is, reliable, defended works hard. He's

dedicated, works hard . He's just lovable. TV was made

Asked if her being a les

bian was a source of friction

between her and her staunch

other about it. ...He's probably more embarrassed that

Mrs. Gingrich went on to

she can't."

for Newty.

In the interview to be shown Thursday on CBS-TV's Eye To Eye With Con-me Chung, Ms. Chung asks saying she wasn't sure she could vote for him.

Asked if her being a les-

that he's smart. That he's an ly conservative step-brother, selligent man. That he's not she said: "We've never actually spoken with each company practical, but he's intelligent man."

"I can't tell you what he said I'm a Democrat, if any-about Hillary," according to thing."

ing you know and she takes

Gingrich mother says son

thinks Hillary is a 'bitch'

NEW YORK (R) — The a transcript released by CBS, mother of incoming and outspoken U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Newt replied: "I can't."

Gingrich says in a television But Ms. Chung persisted interview that her son thinks and said: "Why don't you first lade Utilizer Climaton is "a instrument it to me just

first lady Hillary Clinton is "a just whisper it to me, just between you and me."

WASHINGTON (R) — After 40 years in the political another day. And this is not about some laws: Congress wilderness, Republicans take just another Congress, wilderness, Republicans take just another Congress imposed on the private control of the U.S. Congress trumpeted a full-page ad by standards - but from which it has been exempt. USA Today newspaper.

Other opening-day reforms to be voted on by the House include reducing committee ing a comprehensive audit of the House books, limiting the terms of committee chairman and the speaker and requiring a three-fifths majority to increase income tax rates.

Beyond internal reforms the Republican contract calls for votes in the first 100 days on cutting taxes, a constitutional amendment requiring a balance budget, reforming welfare, strengthening defence, overhauling product liability laws, toughening a crime bill passed last year and limiting the number of terms members of Congress may

Democrats downplayed the reforms, pointing out that the House passed legislation in 1994 applying laws to Con-

Taking aim at Mr. Gingrich, Democrats will offer a proposal to bar lawmakers from accepting gifts from lob-byists and limiting royalties from book deals to a third of a legislator's salary.

fire last month for agreeing to a \$4.5 million advance for writing two books. After public outcry, he said, he would take only a \$1 advance but would take royalties. "It's very important we say to the American people no

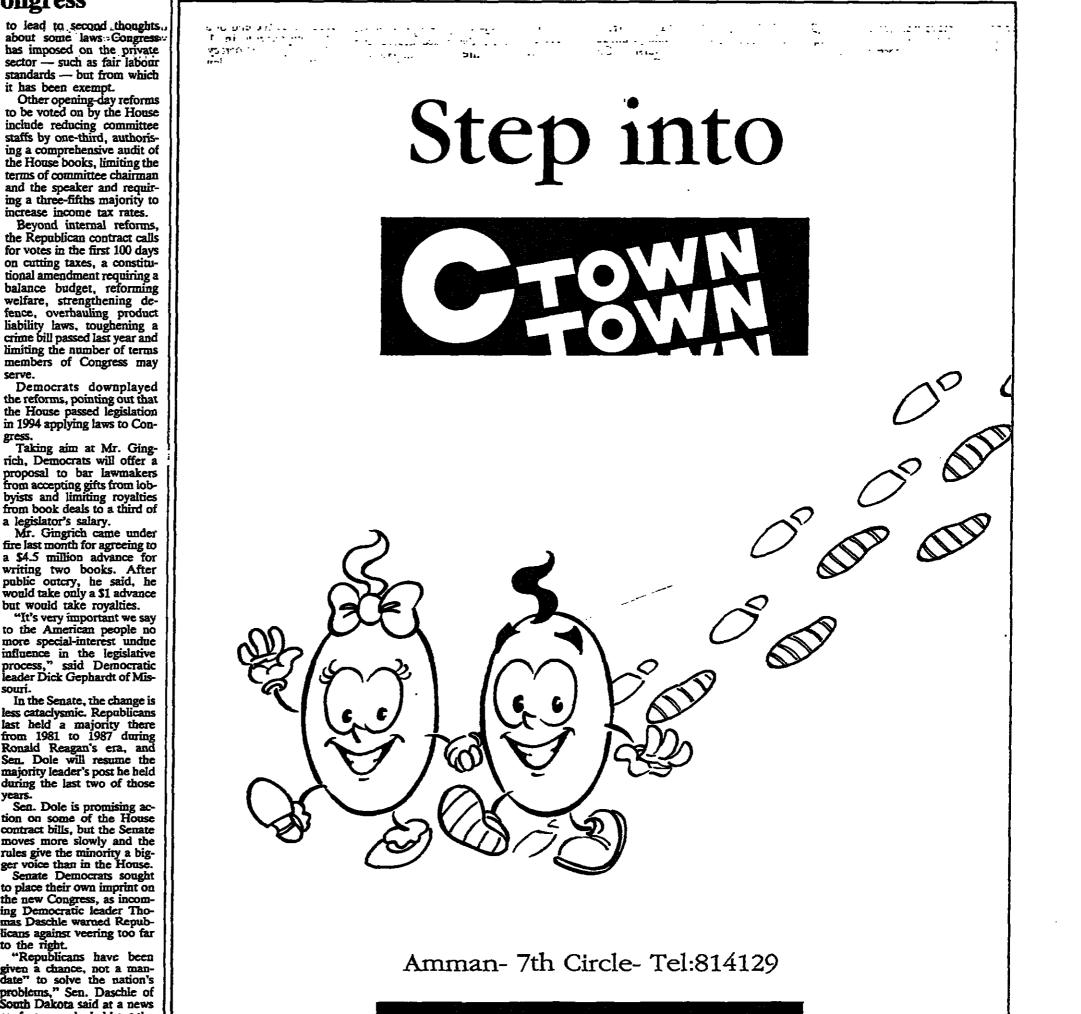
influence in the legislative process," said Democratic leader Dick Gephardt of Mis-In the Senate, the change is less cataclysmic. Republicans last held a majority there from 1981 to 1987 during Ronald Reagan's era, and

Sen. Dole will resume the majority leader's post he held during the last two of those years. Sen. Dole is promising action on some of the House contract bills, but the Senate moves more slowly and the

rules give the minority a big-ger voice than in the House. Senate Democrats sought to place their own imprint on the new Congress, as incoming Democratic leader Thomas Daschle warned Repub-

licans against veering too far to the right.

"Republicans have been given a chance, not a man-date" to solve the nation's problems," Sen. Daschle of South Dakota said at a news conference as he held out the prospect of a partnership between the parties.



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By Dr. Ahmad Y. Maidonha

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Reconciliation, Arab way

IN AN effort to bring about Arab reconciliation, the Arab League Secretary General, Dr. Esmat Abdul Meguid, is currently touring the Arab Gulf states. During his visit to Kuwait, the country whose dispute with and subsequent invasion by Iraq in 1990 triggered the Gulf war and the division in Arab ranks, Dr. Abdul Meguid ruled out the possibility of holding an Arab summit in the near future. His host, Kuwait's foreign minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, went further by stating that no reconciliation meeting will be held at any level "until Iraq transforms all mandates and articles in U.N. resolutions into reality."

That put Dr. Abdul Meguid's mission in jeopardy, even though it came at the behest of the heads of state of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia who met in Alexandria last week to discuss the Arab Nation's current state of affairs and to see what could be done

to improve it.

Kuwait, still traumatised by the sevenmonth Iraqi occupation in 1990 and 1991, is right to want to ensure that Iraq's recent recognition of its borders is final and binding and will not lend in any way to a repetition of the invasion debacle. However, neither the Kuwait dispute with Iraq nor the latter's with the U.S. should continue to hold the Arab Nation hostage to the circumstance that led to the 1990 crisis.

Iraq may be accused of not adhering to or implementing all the U.N. Security Council resolutions. But that country is saying that it is, and three out of five permanent Security Council members think it has gone a long way down that road and they believe the sanctions imposed on Baghdad should b eased, if not totally lifted.

It should be clear to Kuwait, the Arab League and to all Arab states that Irac's isolation and the punishment meted to the Iraqi people as a result would neither solve the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait nor further the common causes of Arab countries and peoples.

In addition, it has to be understood that Arab reconciliation should not and need not include all member states of the League, including Iraq, in one go. If the League still considers Iraq not to have met all U.N. conditions, then that country can be excluded for the time being. Reconciliation between the remaining states would certainly prompt Iraq to come to terms with whatever this absolute majority decides.

The Arab Nation, peoples, states and the League are all facing formidable challenges that certainly cannot wait for Iraq to get a. "certificate of good conduct" from the U.S. and Britain. Even if a full Arab summit cannot be convened at the moment, at least bilateral meetings between the protagonists of the Gulf crisis should commence. Jordan, Yemen and Sudan, who were perceived to stand on the side of Iraq, have been extending their hands to their fellow Arabs ever since. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have so far shunned all reconciliation attempts for no good reason, we think.

It is about time that they did.

arabic press commentaries

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i said Wednesday that contrary to what the prime minister believes, the Saudi Arabian. Syrian, Egyptian summit, held lately in Alexandria, was directed against Jordan and its interests. Tareq Masarweh said that the discussions at the mini-summit never touched matters related to American hegemony in the region or the Israeli occupation of Arab lands. The mini-summit, which formed some kind of alliance, is designed to harm Jordan exactly as four years ago these countries met to hatch plots against Iraq for its occupation of Kuwait and as it was directed against Yemen's unity, charged the writer. As an indication of the enmity towards Jordan, the writer cited that Casablanca Islamic summit meeting where it was Saudi Arabia and not Jordan that was thanked for caring for the holy places in Jerusalem though Rivadh had done nothing in that respect. Furthermore, the writer reminded the prime minister of a statement by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who stressed at the Alexandria summit that Jordan's peace treaty with Israel has weakened the Syrian position. He said that Jordan is regarded as the weaker link within the Arab World, and it is this weakness that has been inviting Arab states to blame the Kingdom for every political or military defeat dealt to the Arab World.

View from the Academia

Cultural orientation and study abroad

world (like students from other parts of the world) who spend some time pursuing their studies abroad experience a culture shock upon their arrival. And this is quite normal. What is not normal, however, is the fact that, in the case of our students in particular, there is very little (if any at all) prior orientation or preparation, a preparation or orientation which helps them to cope better and come to grips more effectively with the crucial cultural encounter they find themselves engaged in as they pursue their studies. The number of students from the Arab World, including Jordan of course, who complete their studies in foreign countries is substantial. Recently, it has somewhat de creased, due to the sharp rise in tuition costs and living expenses as well as the expansion and increase of home colleges and universities, both private and public. In Jordan, for example, the past four years alone have witnessed the birth of a dozen public and private universities. Undeniably, these have attracted significant numbers of students, even though in some of them the student population is way below what is expected. Still, thousands of our students leave annually, heading east and west, primarily in the direction of the U.S. and Europe. Not only

THERE IS no doubt that students from our part of the

spend is significantly longer, on average four years. This means that all those concerned (the students themselves, their parents, the educational institutions entrusted with facilitating and arranging students' admission and travel, etc.) ought to take the matter seriously, much more seriously than they do at present. Not only is the personal fate of these individuals at stake but also to very shape and quality of the outcome we, as an Arab World, hope to obtain - especially since, as a "developing" world, we can only afford to waste and lose little. The way the students deal with the cultures they find themselves in affects, positively or negatively, the way they conduct themselves in their studies. I firmly believe that those who cope better with the culture at large - i.e. understand it, adapt to it (though not necessarily adopt it), interact with it

does their number far outweigh that of their counterparts

seeking educational opportunities in the Arab World (who

are a handful in comparison) but the period of time they

do better in their studies and gain more. More significantly, what we want our students to bring with them, upon their return, is not only a certificate in a certain discipline, information about a particular specialty or knowledge of a given field. No. What we wish them to get is a profound experience. It is not enough for our civil engineers to learn how to supervise the construction of highways, for example. Their job is also to master the cultural implications for highways and help integrate the highway as a concept in our society. To build a busy

highway such as the Amman-Zarqa "autostrade" or the Istiklal highway, and allow a bakery, a supermarket or a mosque to be erected at the very edge of it (and have hundreds of pedestrians cross it in the most reckless and ignorant manner) indicates to me (in part at least, for I know that there are other factors involved, factors beyond the control of individual engineers or engineering departments) a failure to grasp and properly adopt and adapt a certain scientific/cultural fact. The same can be said about computers, architecture, political science, administration, journalism, etc. All specialties, fields of study, and disciplines (and this is the point I wish to stress here) are firmly grounded in culture. An apt knowledge of culture is a must, and a thorough orientation of students who wish to pursue the study of various disciplines in foreign cultures about these foreign cultures is also a must.

Unfortunately, we are not doing well at this level. In fact, we are not doing well even at a lower level orienting our students about the specific fields they wish to specialise in and the colleges or universities they join. A friend of mine, who was sent a few years ago on a scholarship by a local university here to a university upstate New York to obtain a Ph.D., did not know that that particular university was closer to Canada than to New York city (he told me he wanted to be close to New York city for particular reasons and thought he would be close) except when he arrived there; he also got the shock of his life when he discovered that the names of the two compatriots his home university gave him to contact (who were supposed to be students at the university he was joining) turned out to be in Chicago and not upstate New York. The anecdote illustrates two sad facts: a) that our students are not careful enough and independent to check even the simplest of facts on their own and b) that our institutions are not responsible enough and reliable enough to provide the simplest level of orientation and guidance.

Cultural orientation is, of course, not at all easy. First, where can one find enough experts on cultures to explain cultures amply to our students? Nay, are there "experts" on cultures in the first place? Second, there are many aspects of cultures which cannot be explained; they are too subtle and elusive to be comprehended theoretically. Thirdly, suppose one explains culture to others and others understand, is the problem entirely solved? Certainly not, for knowledge of something does not necessarily prevent mistakes and misunderstanding from happening. Besides, people usually like to see with their own eyes, practice and experience. This is all true.

Nevertheless, I believe that cultural orientation and preparation is important and possible. An awareness of something is better than an ignorance of it, under all

circumstances. And people can understand more than many think. Take hospitality, for example. In the Arab World, you bring the tea then the coffee to a guest who stops by and you insist on his or her helping then otherwise, you are not hospitable. In the U.S., by contrast, people ask you if you want coffee or tea, and they do not insist on you helping yourself. This is not considered you to say yes or no and state what you prefer. This cultural explain the concept of private space and public space. It is quite normal in the streets of Jordan and the Arab World changed) for a person to bump into you (in fact it is nowadays not normal if it does not happen). In other parts

the U.S. and he/she wants to tell you about something they do not like in your performance, they do not do it directly.

First, they complement you on your effort and on some positive aspects of what you have done, then comes the "but" or "however." In our part of the world, this does not generally happen. When you complement you complement, and when you criticise you do it directly. There is no "but" and no "however." It is therefore easy for an Arab student to think the American adviser is complementing of unimission bim/her when he/she is in fact criticising him/her when he/she is in fact criticising him/her him/her when he/she is in fact criticising him/her. What to do? First and foremost, we need to recognise the id their region.

problem here, for most of us do not. Our institutions are on the whole oblivious of it. Once this here are on the same says the whole oblivious of it. Once this happens, it is easy to this largest country coordinate efforts to this effect. The initiation is easy to coordinate efforts to this effect. The initiative ought to be 3th sub-divided and it taken by our formal institutions. taken by our formal institutions, especially our higher willing to compromise education institutions. In cooperation with alumni clubs, some law. with educational exchange agencies, with foreign cultura missions and foreign nationals in the individual Arab missions and toreign nationals in the countries, and with individuals who have an interest and experience, some interesting orientation programmers be prepared and formalised. We may even have to be integrating more comparative courses on world culture our school and university syllabi. Above all, the people choose to initiate and supervise such programmes had be particularly sensitive and sympathetic to this mails otherwise they will do more harm than good.

It is our duty to our students and our society at large a provide this crucial service, a service which will make the students' stay and study abroad not only much m pleasant but also much more rewarding and worth

LETTERS

red wis Liberation Army who helds were invited with the maintenance in unhospitable. When they offer you the choice, they exper phenomenon is perfectly explainable. But we can also (though I personally hate this and think it should be of the world, you have to keep a good foot at least between you and other people, even in the most crowded of places This is also perfectly explainable. But we can explain even subtler and more crucial phenomena. When you sit with your academic adviser in

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Petra must be protected from uncontrolled development

TWO THOUSAND years ago the rose-red city of the was between Petra flourished as a major trade centre. Today this and the Palestmans."

Nabatean city stands as a historical jewel, whose project stones hear witness to a civilisation unique is said after Tuesday's Nabatean city stands as a historical jewer, where him said after Tuesday's ancient stones bear witness to a civilisation unique is in Cairo. There is general frustra-without citing Petra as its focus. Accordingly, this are without citing Petra as its focus. Accordingly, this are without citing Petra as its focus. Accordingly, this are without citing Petra as its focus. Accordingly, this are its general frustration in Jordan and the pillar of its area and they accuse the most important and they accuse the most important and they accuse the most institution continued to the pillar of its area and they accuse the most institution continued to the pillar of its area. tourism industry.

Unfortunately, various factors related to admits the West Bank. Mr. Drotration and to the numbers of daily visits by tourist side and to the numbers of daily visits by tourist side are causing alarm about its future. Petra suffers from the frequency of our the absence of an administrative and organisations shows that the sides authority. Some questions that arise are: Is it 4 tourist site affiliated with the Ministry of Tourism the Department of Antiquity? Is it geographically part of the Wadi Musa municipality. Or is it directly part of the wadi Music Industry of Municipalities. Or does it a Yasser Arafat are to belong to all these authorities at the same time. Then week at the Erez Petra's historical background and aesthetic civilise tang between Israel and tion must not, under any circumstances, be low a kifrule Gaza Strip in a among our government offices.

Petra is visited by nearly 1,000 people every day. yielding a source of income in foreign currency of no less than JD 15 million annually. It is an economic cornerstone within the tourist industry providing economic recovery for a geographical region on the edge of the desert.

The high numbers of daily tourists require a efficient house-keeping team ready to carry of tasks. It is necessary to have facilities to provide meals and drinks in a clean, hygienic and acceptable manner. Such facilities should not be limited to kiosks meeting the minimal health requirements and serving limited kinds of food. In addition, public facilities such as bathrooms must be adequate to meet the needs of large numbers of both make and female tourists. These should be organised in a manner that promote comfort and cleanliness so not to disappoint or cause undue discomfort to dis visitors. A tourist should not feel the need to discontinue his/her trip because of the lack of

Mankind is responsible for Petra's preservation is to keep its fascinating beauty. It is therefore legacy the international community must shoulder to preserve this site for posterity. As a UNESCO work heritage site it is essential to focus on this amount city. Moreover, it is also vital to safeguard the entire Wadi Musa basin from uncontrolled development leading to disastrous environmental results.

> Mohammad Asfour, ICC Chairman, Int. Chamber of Commerce,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contribution its readers on any subject they wish to tacked intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full parts. writer's full name and preferably address as well hame can be withheld and preferably address as well circumstances I enough upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Electioneering endangers implementation of Oslo accords credibility with Palestinians

By Michael Jansen Special to the Jordan Times

INSTEAD of taking a stand on the expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesmen said after Tuesday's meeting in Cairo with the Israeli negotiations team, that the PLO would not agree to further talks until Palestinian political prisoners were released. By adopting this line the PLO has let the Israelis off the settlement hook and shifted Palestinian popular attention to the emotional issue of prisoners who should have

been released months ago. The PLO did this because this issue is much more easily resolved than that of settlement, which goes to the very heart of the Palestinian-Israeli dispute. Spurred by Palestinian outrage over the expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, the team was obliged to raise the issue during discussions on implementation of the second stage of Palestinian self-rule. But it is clear that it did so with greatest reluctance and only due to pressure from other members of the Palestinian National Authority and the public. Speaking before the Cairo meeting, which lasted only a few hours instead of several days as is the usual practice. Dr. Saeb Erekat, Palestinian minister of local affairs, said "a long list of violations" of the Oslo accord had been prepared for presentation to the Israeli team, ied by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Tris fist, stated Dr. Erekat, was, in fact, so long that it would take "several hours" to examine — this clearly was not done at this meet-

Although the Oslo ber 1993, stipulated that discussion of settlements and other "permanent starus issues" should begin "as soon as possible," the PLO permitted the Israelis to postpone these talks until the latest date set by the

Israel took advantage of the delay by stepping up the expropriation of Palestinian land, the expansion of existing settlements and the building of roads to serve these settlements, in violation of the Oslo accord, which both regards the occupied territories "as a single territorial unit, whose integrity will be preserved during the interim period" and forbids either side from trying to "pre-

living under the occupation.

This happened because

Although the Oslo accord, signed in September 1993, stipulated that discussion of settlements and other "permanent status issues" should begin "as soon as possible," the PLO permitted the Israelis to postpone these talks until the latest date set by the accord, "the beginning of the third vear" of the self-rule regime, or May

accord. "the beginning of the third year" of the selfrule regime, or May 1996. Paiestinian acceptance of that date has now achieved the force of an unwritten

'gentlemen's agreement.' The Palestimans agreed to this delay in order to accommodate the government of Yitzhak Rabin, fearful that his coalition could be brought down by popular opposition to early negotiations on the final status of lands Israel occupied in 1967. In so doing, the PLO sacrificed its own

judice or preempt" final status negotiations. The "gentiemen's agreement," is in itself a violation of the Oslo accord because it permits the Israelis to "prejudice and preempt" final states negotiations.

The PLO did not come under extreme pressure to revoke the "gentlemen's agreement" with Mr. Rabin until popular Palestinian protest over the expansion of the Efrat settlement near Bethlehem focused attention on all settlement activity. Dr. Erekat, who on

Monday rejected Mr. Rabin's compromise of an offer of an alternative settlement site to Efrat asserted, "Mr. Rabin cannot solve the problem by diverting the bulldozers from one hilltop to another. And we really think that if this Israeli government decides to continue with the settlements... they are not giving the peace process a chance." He expected Palestinians in other parts of the West Bank to increase their protests against land confiscation. Ziad Abu Zayyad, editor

of the Palestinian Hebrew paper, "Gesher," spoke on behalf a majority of Palestinians when he told this cor-respondent, "We should not continue the negotiations while Israel continues to build settlements to create new facts, new realities to prevent further with-drawal" from the territories. "Our side has said what it wants, but Israel must be courageous enough to say what it wants - settlements or peace. It can't have

Another leading figure in East Jerusalem said that the two leadership, the Israeli and Palestinian, had lost credibility. "Both sides are playing the same game. Mr. Rabin is trying to convince the settlers he is on their side" by allowing their activities to go on. "While our side does not do its job properly and protests only for public relations purposes. Both sides are only thinking of the coming elec-

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The sides 2 boking for ways to prea the peace process from

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Out senior official said he eted progress when the

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Good management is essential to promote culture and arts

By Mohammad Mashariqa

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I was fortunate enough to participate in a workshop entitled "Management of Culture and Arts" organised in the past two weeks by the British Council Centre in Jerusalem.

The participants were directors of theatres, galleries and arts centres in Palestine. However Egyptian intellectuals and artists invited to take part in the meetings have declined to attend although the discussions had nothing to do with politics.

I had hoped I would not be the only participant

from Jordan because the subjects on the agenda were actually of great importance and could benefit a large group of Jordanian artists and writers.

The workshop has indeed given me the opportunity to closely examine the Palestinian cultural and artistic situation under Israeli occupation and to inspect those political and cultural influences that have their impact on the cultural and economic life in

I came away from that workshop with the conviction that we in Jordan have to give due attention to the management of culture and arts since only through appropriate and efficient management can arts and culture be developed.

Artists ought to learn rules for not only planning art work but also marketing them and for the need to enhance artists contacts and links with the local communities with the purpose of creating a constant audience of theatre-goers and gallery visitors.

I am now convinced of the importance of creating. an umbrella for the artistic groups, designed to facilitate promoting artistic work, and marketing it and of the need to have a centre for documenting

artistic work for the benefit of the new artists. One of the lecturers advocated the cause of creating a department in Arab universities to train students in the management of cultural and artistic

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

work, arguing that through this plan Arab states can give real boost to artistic work. The lecturer also underlined the need for an artist to sacrifice his creative work to specialise mainly in management of

To achieve this, he said, it was necessary to separate management of artwork from creativity and creative artistic work in order to pool the work of managers and artists, thus avoiding issues related to financial or marketing considerations.

The other aspect of the workshop concerned the future cultural relations between Israel and the Palestinians. That was indeed a hard topic because of

the religious and nationalistic considerations and ideologies which are still influencing the Arab mind.

But I am convinced now that without the emergence of a strong group inside Israel that really believes in and supports the peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews, it would be almost impossi-

ble to secure stability in the region.

This is my personal conviction after attending the workshop which enhanced my idea and belief that artists and intellectuals on both sides can bridge the gap between the two peoples and can pave the way for peaceful co-existence.

Indeed, I beleive that the cycle of violence can never vanish without a full openness on the part of social and civic institutions in Israel and Palestine to one another. I have felt that there is real desire on the part of both sides to have security, peace, stability and progress in every domain, but that apprehension and fear for personal safety have to date prevented such objectives to be attained.

I can safely say that there can be no way for peace except through full normalisation and I believe that artists and intellectuals are the most eligible people to influence their respective sides and attain the aspired co-existence and stability.

An Israeli artist confided that he knows no Palestinian artist nor is he acquainted with Palestinian works of art although Arab artists could be living a 10-minute walk from his house. He said he feared for his life if he tried to approach the Arab artists. A Palestinian artist shared the same view and added that his movements between East and West. Jerusalem are restricted and he is always subject to inspection by the troops.

I have noticed through this workshop that intellectuals from Palestine are separated culturally from those on the east bank of Jordan because of political considerations. Therefore there is a general feeling on the West Bank that unity between the Palestinians and the Jordanians is farfetched and a mere wishful

Novelist Yahya Yakhlef told me the time has come for Jordanian intellectuals, artists and writers to express full solidarity with the Palestinian brothers. Yakhlef, who serves as assistant minister of culture in the self-rule areas of Palestine, said that there was need for bolstering joint cultural and artistic work and also for building personal relationships.

In conclusion, I can say that peace and stability

require hard, intensive and relentless work and perseverance on the part of both the Arabs and Israelis and require a great deal of courage on both sides, so that they can advance towards a better future for the coming generations.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Chechenya under the dome: aim is to liquidate 'fiery' team?

Insisting that Jordan should take more practical steps to show solidarity with the Muslim people of Chechenya, Islamic Action Front Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant (Amman) in yesterday's Lower House session proposed that the assembly form a special committee to deal with the problem in that part of the world. Sheikh Abu Zant's proposal led to a somewhat heated debate about the Kingdom's position on the conflict in the Caucasus republic. Other proposals came to counter his in the heat of the debate which saw Deputy Toujan Faisal (Amman) launch a strong attack on the government. The House eventually voted down Sheikh Abu Zant's proposal and adopted another one to refer the issue to the Foreign Affairs Committee. But lawmakers did not take a vote on the only proposal that made the deputies laugh from their hearts. It was a motion by Deputy Mohammad Dawoudiyeh (Tafileh) to send a fact-finding mission consisting of deputies Abu Zant, Faisal (who's Circassian) and Abdul Baqi Jammoh (Chechen from Zarqa) to the besieged Chechen capital, Grozny. Why did the House not take a vote on Mr. Dawoudiyeh's proposal? Because, in the words of Deputy Bassam Haddadin (Zarqa), the mission he proposed was more of an attempt at "liquidating" the fiery team than a fact-finding tour.

OF TABLOIDS AND SCOOPS: Many journalists go to extreme lengths to scoop their competitors, as the case is all over the world. Not many, however, will go as far as the Al Bilad weekly as a recent report by it shows. In a recent edition, Al Bilad carried a detailed account of a meeting it said brought together HRH Crown Prince Hassan with representatives of the Islamic movement in the Kingdom. The paper gave details of what was said in the meeting as well as its mood. As it turned out, the story was not only inaccurate, but also totally untrue. Why, because the meeting had not taken place when the weekly tabloid printed its report. Al Bilad apparently acted on a tip that the Crown Prince was going to meet with Islamists. So when the expected date of the meeting passed and no news about it reached the press, Al Bilad must have assumed that nobody wanted to talk about it. The choice, it seems, was between giving up on a big scoop or acting on an editor's hunch that the meeting took place. Obviously the paper opted for the latter and wrote the report based on its expectations of what could have been said during it. Some professional journalism for you. Our advice is: See the Jordan Times' front page for real coverage of events from now on.

* * *

NEW YEAR? HOW AND WHERE?: As 1994 was wrapping up, the big question (other than what was going to happen with the Cabinet) was where to spend New Year's eve. There were invitations to private parties (even one with a "cowboys and indians" theme and the annual "come as you are, come anytime," bashes hosted by others). But by Al Aswaq Arabic daily's estimate in its Monday edition, more people opted for private gatherings at home or at public facilities. Thus, Al Aswaq concluded, there were probably fewer "incidents and problems" owing to "harassment and overdrinking" at the hospitality and eatery establishments than in previous years. But most sales managers and restauranteurs the newspaper spoke to said their counts for that night were excellent, and apart from the usual few "incidents" and some gatecrashers, the evening-til-dawn celebrations went rather smoothly. Some hoteliers even admitted to running their own short reconnaissance missions to see how their competitors were doing.

* * *

MARRIOTT HOTEL officials could not be more pleased, according to Business Travel Sales Manager Ibrahim Salman. First the hotel's ballroom was booked as it usually is for the American University of Beirut (AUB) annual end of the year affair. Also in its Sports Bar another group hosted a private party. The botel's Al Mansaf and Al Walima restaurants served dinner to 120 and 60 people respectively. And New Year's Day breakfast, "the most popular in town" says Salman, was served from about sunrise to 7:00 a.m. to 700 people. The night went off without a hitch, Salman maintains.

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THE REGENCY PALACE, a few blocks away, Sales Manager Ghaleb Sawalha said the evening at the hotel's rooftop nightclub was a great success, complete with a band, a singer and a dancer.

THE PHILADELPHIA HOTEL was bursting at the seams with New Year festivities, according to its Sales Manager Nader Amr. With six parties (two of them private) the staff at the hotel, which is "known for having some of the best parties in town," had their hands full. The Royal Ballroom seated 1,100 guests who came to dine and hear Egyptian singer Mustafa Qamar. At the Philadelphia Bal-Iroom, Iraqi singer Mahmoud Anwar entertained 400 revelers. And a confirmed 250 (but an estimated show of about 300) "yuppies" and Royal Jordanian flight attendants crowded the Coffee Shop to stomp to the popular rock of the Dead Sea Fishing Club., Fifty staff members of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) filled a room for their own celebration. And 250 members and friends of the Children's International Summer Villages Society attended the new organisation's year-end affair. By about 11:00 p.m., local singers Adel Al Haj and Suhair Odeh, who had organised a party of 100, made their way, accompanied by their group, into the other parties. Most of the celebrations ended at 3:00 a.m., but the Royal Ballroom crowd carried on till 5:00 a.m.

EATERIES ON THE RUN: Restaurants too, were said to have done well. One half of the seating at LACOQUETTE was reserved for a party of 27 made up of an eclectic group of young professionals. The other half filled up with smaller groups for dinner and live musical entertainment. At TURI-NO "Flat-Otel" waiters were busy attending to three "packed" parties in the establishment's Vis-a-Vis Disco Restaurant, Turino Restaurant and Cheers Café. According to restaurant Manager Amar Sheikhan, the revelers danced to the music of Tigers Band and singer Amer Khufash and only started for home about 4:00 a.m. The gala "masquerade" dinner at ROZENA Restaurant was the creation of Manager Ernest Liniger. His guests on New Year's Eve were an "elegant" mix of small groups and five tables-for-two, who dined on a five-course gourmet menu including lobster thermidor and filet wellington. Dancing to the selections of a "class act, Rozena guests went home happy by 2:00 a.m., said Liniger. And for those who stayed up till dawn and beyond, popular pizza parlour **MILANO** was serving Manaish till 6:00 a.m.

CALCULATIONS BLURRED BY ...: Al Aswaq gave no headcount figures to support its claims that low turn-outs at the year-end affairs were attributable to "a rise in charges and a drop in the quality of food and service." We wonder who in the industry they spoke to. Judging from the figures the J.T. obtained, and the sober comments of hotel and restaurant patrons, a good time was had by all. The hospitality industry thus takes their successful evening as a sign of things to come in '95.

* * *

THE COMMON 'Z' DENOMINATOR: If the entertainment industry could only follow suit, and equitably determine what its audience would like to see and hear, many more sectors would look to a bright mid-decade.

* * *

Right about the end of the year, when many of us were deciding on, or at least thinking about, New Year's resolutions, we received a letter to the editor which was directed to the attention of "Jordan Television-Channel 2." We thought the message of its author, Al Ghazerian, might be a timely catalyst for programme directors and producers at Jordan Radio and Television Corporation to take the oppor-tunity of the unfolding of 1995, "bite the bullet" and really make headway in the country's broadcast arena. Ghazerian, proud and seemingly quite prog-ressive father of two girls, was most disturbed, as you will read, about the cancelling of popular DJ Muhan-nad Al Jazireh's Tuesday TV special "Da Beat's On." Here is how Ghazerian saw it: "This letter will be short and to the point. You have proven to be unprofessional in your decision-making. Is it a habit destroying talent once you have it? This seems to be the case with Da Beat's On. You can not deny the fact that this show was so popular that it's following made waves not only in Jordan but across the borders

to Israel and the Gulf. Everybody talked about it. Many people loved it, especially school kids and the new generation (Generation X). You can ask my daughters. What justification do you have for can-celling it. Could it be because of some dirty foul play within your TV station, or maybe someone from outside did not like the presenter. Well, everything is possible in this small town. Though rumour has it that someone at JTV cancelled it for personal reasons, another says that someone else in JTV has a grudge against Mr. Al Jazireh. As I said, this is a small town. News travels like a bullet. Let the record show that Muhannad Al Jazireh is Jordan's top radio DJ and probably one of the best to have ever come to the tube and radio. Unfortunately, Jordan TV is a classic case of sadism. Once people like something cancel it. Let's torture them guys. After all, we have nothing else to do. Questions: Why does Jordan TV cancel popular shows? Answer: Because people like them. Just a thought for your (professional) decision

According to JTV sources, the show, which went on the air in October 1993, was cancelled last May after the station received a faxed copy of an article in Al Sabeel, which is the Muslim Brotherhood's official gazette, objecting to the content of some of the songs featured in the programme. A follow-up phone call to the producers complaining that the programme was "too loose," turned out to be the



Mohannad Al Jazireh

show's death sentence. What a story to believe? If there is more to it, we promise to let you know.

Jennifer Hamarneh

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A wireless world

By Jean-Claude Eli**a**s

Let's face it. Cables are ugly. If your personal computer (PC) has a standard configuration that would include a monitor, a keyboard, a printer, a sound card, a fax/modem card and naturally a mouse, you're already looking at approximately 12 cables, un-aesthetically tangled behind your desk. If your setup includes additional hardware like a scanner, a removable data storage device, a joystick and a MIDI (Music Instrument Digital Interface), the

number of cables can easily reach 20 or 30.

Most external units require two cables to operate, the power cable that supplies the electric current and the data cable that channels the flow of information to and from the computer.

to and from the computer. The mouse and the keyboard need only one cable that fulfills both functions. Other devices use several wires --- the sound card for instance has 3 plugs: one for the microphone, one for line output and one for line

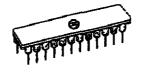
If you are of the tidy kind and have taken care to untangle the web, maybe by separating the wires in functional groups, power cables on one side and data cables on the other, keeping them together with special fasteners, the back of your desk may appear less painful to look at. Still, every PC user wishes one day that one or two cables are enough to do all the

Wireless communications have existed for decades now, the most universally known and widespread ones being the radio and TV. In the last 20 or 15 years, the number of wireless devices, whether for professional or consumer use, on a small or a wide scale, has gone mushrooming. TV and hi-fi remote controls, wireless home phones, cellular phones, pagers, satellite communications, wireless microphones and headphones, walkie-talkies, ...the list is endless.

A distinction should be made between the devices that use temporary, or "spot" transmission - most remote controls — and those that need to be transmitting continuously - satellites, TV, and others. Notwithstanding technical details, all systems work on a certain frequency of the available electromagnetic waves spectrum, on which they transmit and receive. The most advanced ones - the cellular phones - function on an assigned, optimised frequency that may automatically change, in order to free the band for other users, based on "time and place" criteria. The result, in any case, is over-

It was therefore only normal that computer designers started to think of cableless systems. However,





the speed at which computer data is shuttled, its volume and the required level of accuracy all make such devices rather expensive, when compared to the price of regular items. There is no room here for a compromise. By comparison, an amateur, FM (Frequency Modulation) wireless microphone system can be purchased for as little as 20 JD. A professional unit on the other hand can cost as much as 1,200 JD. In the computer field, only high quality equipment could be used. Alas it would be too expensive for the time being. It may cost as much as the PC itself.

Cordless mice and keyboards are available. They work in the infra-red range of the waves spectrum. Though reasonably priced, they have not become particularly popular yet. Other products are appearing all the time: wireless speakers for the sound cards, wireless network connections and wireless MIDI interfaces. Although clearly annoyed by messy cables, users seem to trust them more than expensive, esoteric cordless systems. Reliability is sought before anything else. Cables also make maintenance

PC users seem reluctant to increase the traffic on the already congested air waves. Even though there are clear international conventions on sharing the air waves, mainly by assigning parts of the spectrum (HF, VHF, UHF, etc...) for different purposes (TV, radio, telephones, police, ...) and limiting the allowed transmission power (therefore distances), computer users do not find it necessary to enter this complex system. Except in the case of LANs (Local Area Networks) where the benefits would be obvious, personal computing, for the time being at least, will be just fine with all these "spaghetti" cabling around.

Manufacturers could however alleviate the pain in a simple way, without the need for wireless devices, by integrating more and more options inside the main PC cabinet. For these components, no external wires would be necessary. Such a solution would be both elegant and inexpensive. The most striking example is Apple's new screens with built-in stereo speakers. An example to follow.

3. How much does a cricket ball weigh?

other, what are they called?

4. If two figures coincide when placed one upon the

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

AWARD: You'll be lucky if you dreamed of receiving

MEDAL: Wearing medals predicts recognition for

your vanity and/or your jealousy.

BADGE: Whatever kind of security concerns you

anyone else wearing a badge.

(A) LOVEMATCH

1. Antony and.....

b- Cleopatra

c- Calpurnia

2. Napoleon and.....

d- Josephine

a- Marie Antoinette

b- Emma Hamilton

c- Madame Pompadou

3. Richard Burton and.....

а- Магіlуп Мопгое

b- Elizabeth Ashley

c- Carole Lombard

d- Elizabeth Taylor

a- Emily Dickinson

b- Elizabeth Barrett

d- Christina Rossetti

Can you scribe a second, smaller

circle inside this figure so that each

of the three dots is isolated in its

c- Emily Bronte

(B) CIRCLE LINE

own compartment?

4. Robert Browning and

d- Cecelia

a- Lucrezia Borgia

PUZZLES

Match up the famous lovers from the lists below:

* * * * *

is just round the corner.

or giving an award of any kind. Prosperity

* * * * *

work well done; observing medals on others or in a display is a warning to control

* * * * *

most, whether job, social or financial, will

be yours if you dreamed of yourself or

Leaving behind the culturally insignificant

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Reflection is a pointless and misery-inducing option that only makes you aware of how quickly the years are passing. But these days seem to be the only time that one has to reflect on the fact that everyone is, in a way, a year older; a year has gone and another has

just come up.

And in adulthood, although dreams of the just and perfect can remain as strong as they were in adolescence, there is also generated the capacity to explore and care about specific new things or situations not part of that ideal vision. This is the freedom of adulthood: the capacity to absorb new and perhaps painful meanings, the willingness to get involved in situations one cannot securely control.

While a community is a particular kind of social group in which men and women believe that they share something together, and while affluence has given our community new tools to define itself, the affluent society of the last few years has shown that the received notion of community - the pleasure in recognising "us" and "who we are" - have become a way for people to hide from each other. The products of this hiding have been slavery and

In place of the communal bonds people have

experienced, a different adult society has taken form. Care between individuals now exists only to the extent that mutual curiosity and specific bonds are developing. There can be no expectation of human love, no community of affection, warm and comforting, laid down for the society as a whole. Human bonds are fragmented and limited to specific and individual encounters. Only a truly chaotic and modern urban life can challenge the slavery patterns of adolescence so that large numbers of young people have the opportunity for growth now accorded only

But the "modern" is not something we must indiscriminately consume: it is not a unitary concept. It is not something which one can be for or against. It is neither a threat or a poison because it is not one thing. It is many things, good and bad. It pushes us in two quite distinct directions-towards characterless trash and towards something better, freer, funnier and faster. One thing, however, the modern always does is offer us more. There are always new things to buy or to use. Technology and wealth will, in the absence of global catastrophe, continue to grow. The trick is to deal with this tide by being rich and smart, to know the difference between sushi and hamburger. between class and trash. Maybe we can begin to learn this trick in 1995.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

7:30 N.B.A.

8:30 Road To Avonlea

Sara and Aunt Olivia team up while trying to regain the lost treasure to its rightful owner.

9:10 The Hat Squad

Raffi and the rest of the Hat Squad go in pursuit of a gang that specialises in armoured car heists.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film - Skylark

Starring: Glenn Glose & Christopher Walken

The film tells the unique story of a mail-order bride from Maine who finds a challenging new life on the Kansas prairie.

11:10 The Exile

An attempt to nail down an underworld businessman after being charged with blackmail and murder.

Friday, Jan. 6

7:30 Hollywood Stuntmakers

8:30 African Skies

While considering to donate the tobacco farm to the government, Sam is met with anger from the villagers nearby as the closing of the farm would mean unemployment for many of the locals.

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:00 P.M. Magazine

9:30 Heart Of Courage

10:00 News In English

10:20 Blanche

Drawn by the bonds of kinship, Blanche sets out for the rugged region of Abitibi to find the father she knows so little about and who has chosen to live in

11:10 Never The Twain

Saturday, Jan. 7

7:30 Harry And the Hendersons

8:00 Innovation

Challenges of living under water and a focus on mineral resources buried in the depths of oceans and 8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Murder She Wrote

A fire breaks out in the house of a renowned pianist whose wife is later murdered by a gunshot.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Frauds

Starring: Phil Collins & Hugo Weaving

On the roll of a stained ivory dice, the fate of a guilty young couple who took a chance on the lure of early insurance money, will be decided.

11:10 Major Dad

A gorgeous and playful newcomer creates chaos inside the headquarters as she puts a spell on the

7:30 Galactica 8:15 The Album Show

9:00 Hidden Room

9:30 Heartbeat

· 10:00 News In English 10:20 One Woman's Courage

Starring: Patty Duke & James Farentino

The life of an old woman turns to a nightmare as she becomes the only eye witness to a murder in which a black lady gets killed in the middle of the road.

12:00 The Upper Hand

A celebration turns to a tragic scene after a patient is taken to the hospital.

7:30 Black Beauty

8:00 Boogles Diner

8:30 Street Hawk

A girl gets kidnapped after her father refuses to respond to blackmail.

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Flight Into Hell

Tuesday, Jan. 10

7:30 Practical Guide To The Universe

8:00 The Detectives

Two detectives are assigned on a mission to guard a monk who is an important murder witness.

8:30 The Law And Harry McGraw

9:10 Equinox

10:00 News In English

10:20 WHd Palms

Set sometime in the near future in Los Angeles, Wild Palms is a mind-bending mixture of horrifying drama, deadpan realism and hallucinatory soap

11:10 Piglet Files

There's a case of mistaken identity when a Russian hitman looking for Patrick Clapton is handed a photograph of Peter Chapman, who finds himself a hunted man.

Wednesday, Jan. 11

7:30 Home Improvement ...

Tim helps his wife in the house work while she prepares to delivering a speech before a big audi-

8:00 Life In The Freezer

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Law And Order

10:00 News In English:

10:20 Snowy River

Matt is in Melbourne to fight a land act that is putting all the small farm holders out of business.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A, Shuqair

ARABIC PROVERBS EXPLAINED

* A bachelor for life rather than a widower for a TRANSLITERATION: Azzab dahr wala armal

MEANING: A bachelor's life is much more comfortable if compared to a widower's, particularly after the loss of his wife.

** * * * * *

TRANSLITERATION: It'taqi sharra man ahsanta

MEANING: Beware of a man who ignores a favour

you already did for him.

* * * * *

"Care killed a cat." TRANSLITERATION: Kathratul hamm toqassir

MEANING: Care shortens life and the avoidance of forgetting them is much better.

* * * * *

☆ "Don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs." TRANSLITERATION: Akhbar minnak be-youm aaraf minnak be-sana.

MEANING: It is advisable for young people not to worry themselves by giving advice to those who are older than them as they have much more experience in matters of life.

* * * * *

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

Innahu mutakaddir.

Innahu rajol teefeh.

Imahu sadeeguna.

Innahu kasool.

Innahu gash'shaash.

Innahu qalilul fahm.

innahu rajoi bakheel.

Innaho nammam.

Innahu kathirul kalam.

He's out of tune. He's all the talk: He's a man of straw. - He's no stranger to us. — He's a snake in the grass.

— He's a slow coach. He's slow of apprehension. - He's a back-biter. - He's jealous and envious. Innahu gayoor wa-hasood.

Innahu mutakabbir. He's showing off.
 He sees double. Innaho sakran. - He's at the point of death. Innaha ala shafa hofraten minal mawt. Innaho moh'tal. - He's a deep file.

Ionahu ah'lah. - He's a natural fool. Innahu qassirul qama. - He's of low stature. --- He commits gross mistakes. Innahu yartakib akhtaa fashisha.

— He's a miserly man. ***

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

2. What is a nom de plume?

i. How long will grape vines produce?



New York restaurant rules put the squeeze on smokers

By Frederic Bichon Agence France Presse

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Trees to the the second are secon

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NEW YORK --- The walls are closing in on smokers in New York after the city council approved new rules drastically limiting the number of restaurants where diners can light up. Critics of the antismoking measures are

funing.
"Where will it stop?" said Frederick Lesori, a non-smoking French national and owner of

three trendy New York restaurants.

"The next step is prohibition, followed by being forced to offer only low-calorie menus to discourage obesity," he said of the new rules, which effectively ban smoking in all restaurants that seat more than 35 customers. "It's a Communist men-

tality," he said. Barring an unforeseen twist of fate, the strict new regulations will become law next month with the assent of New York Mayor Rudolph Guiliani, who has on several occasions called publicly for stiff anti-smoking measures for the city.

But restaurant and hotel owners, whose liveli-hood depends largely on the tourism industry, have warned the new measures will undermine the city's economy and will be difficult if not impossible to

The rules are "a blow to the city's tradition of hos-

pitality," according to a statement released by the United Restaurant, Hotel and Tavern Association, a group set up to fight tough anti-smoking legisla-

The group said the measures would lead to the elimination of 11,000 jobs in New York's hotel and restaurant sector and would cost the city's tourist industry \$500 million in lost revenue in the short

The rules, critics say, would also turn restaurant owners into policemen. "There's no question of me becoming a cop," Mr.

Lesort said. Des O'Brien, owner of Langan's restaurant in the threatre district, echoed the sentiment.

tomers will have no knowledge of the legislation and no understanding of it either," Mr. O'Brien said. "I will have to tell them what they are doing is

"So many of my cus-

illegal and if they smoke they are no longer welcome in my establishment. Is this the message that the city of New York really wants to send out to

Apparently so, based on Health Department instructions for enforcing the rules: the owner of any restaurant seating more than 35 customers who fails to enforce the regulations will face a first-time fine of up to \$200.

bled with each subsequent be back." violation.

Several of the city's most well-known restaurants, including Lutece, Sardi's and the Four Seasons, support the anti-tobacco drive and even restaurant owners such as Mr. Lesort seem resigned to a tighter

clampdown on smoking. "Customers might, at the beginning, go to the smaller restaurants where they can still smoke," Mr.

That sum will be dou- Lesort said. "But they'll

Philip Morris, the world's largest producer of cigarettes which earlier threatened to move its 2,000-employee office out of New York if the new rules were approved, has since opted for a low pro-

"We're very disappointed," a spokesman for the company said, offering no further com-

Book on Italian communication catalogues what words can't describe

By Brian Murphy The Associated Press

ROME - A recipe for trouble in Italy: Make a fist, extend index finger and pinkie, thrust forward and up. A snarl is option-

The gesture — an insult suggesting an unfaithful wife — is part of the array of hand jabs, facial tics and arm movement that add significance and sentiment to nearly every conversation among Italians.

"There are gestures for everything from making love to making dinner. The hands can often say things better than words," said Milan design artist Bruno Munari, who compiled a book illustrating some of the most popular Italian gestures.

Munari's Dictionary Of Italian Gestures contains dozens of examples stretching from early 19th century Naples to modern signals for a cellular telephone call.

Squeezing your chin be-tween thumb and index finger signifies cuteness. Pulling down slightly on the skin under the right eye with an index finger shows an agreement has been reached. Consider something foolish? Place hands together as if in prayer then lower the

Technology added new gestures. The first telephone gesture was a rotating finger, simulating dialing. It was replaced by a push-button movement. Now, with cellular phones widely popular in Italy, the latest phone gesture is a palm pressed to an

"You need to keep up," said Munari.

The idea for the book came when Munari, 87,

was on vacation and joking with a friend about the scope of Italian gestures. A list was started. The vulgar signs were eliminated as well as ones that could be considered offensive, such as a flick of the earlobe to signify homosexuality.

"We were left with the main gestures that have the widest use. You'd need many books to include all the gestures particular to a region or popular among young people," said Munari, who has written several books on industrial de-With gestures, entire

conversations could be conducted in silence. "What do you want?"

(fingertips pinched together).

"I'm hungry," (a cutting motion of the hand above the top of the sto-

"And something to drink?" (thumb tipped down toward mouth.)

"No, everything fine. By the way, it was deli-cious," (shake hand with palm down, then stick index finger in cheek and rock side to side.)

Some gestures are obvious in their intent. A across the neck. I'm you are not really fluent." angry: curl your index finger and bite down.

Others need translation. Rubbing two index fingers together represents an affair or secret meeting. Tapping your forehead with your fingers means something is too strange to believe.

"A foreigner can come to Italy and learn the language perfectly, but withthreat is a thumb slashing out knowing the gestures said Munari. "A lot can be said with no words at all."

A woman who broke the silence

Memoirs From The Women's Prison By Nawal El Saadawi

Translated from the Arabic by Marilyn Booth University of California Press 204pp. \$35; paperback \$12.

The innocence Of The Devil By Nawai Ei Saadawi Translated from the Arabic by Sherif Hitata University of California Press 233pp. \$20.

NAWAL El Saadawi, a physician, political and literary inconociast and one of the most widely translated contemporary Egyptian writers, was an out-spoken feminist thinker long before women's rights was considered a legitimate item on the

international human rights agenda.

In these two very different books — one a prison memoir and the other a post-modernist novel of near-poetic density, Saadawi places herself squarely within a tradition of outspoken women who have dared to question the religious as well as the secular foundations of patriarchal authority. In her prison account — the author was jailed along with numerous other Egyptian intellectuals during Anwar Sadat's regime - Saadawi observes that from earliest childhood she never besitated to engage in disputations with God - "and God had to convince me of

Although she now spends most of her time teaching at American and European universities, in her own land Saadawi is a complicated and controversial figure whose political views have managed to outrage both Islamic fundamentalists and supporters of peace with Israel. Her politics - particularly her opposition to the 1979 Camp David peace treaty between Egypt and Israel — were probably responsible for her imprisonment. (She was released after

Fragments Of Memory: A Story of A Syrian

180 pages, \$9.95, published by the Centre for

Middle East Studies of the University of Texas at

To many people, the name Syria evokes images of

ancient walled cities, colourful markets and re-

nowned restaurants, as found in Damascus or Alep-

po. Such is the Syria depicted in, inter alia, Rafiq

Schami's Damascus Nights. Following the tradition

of the hakawati (storyteller), Schami spins an amus-

ing and fanciful tale about Syrian life in the 30s -

Hanna Mina's Fragments of Memory is set in

roughly the same time period, but would seem to recall another country and people altogether. In this autobiographical novel, Mina tells the story of the impoverished rural population in the North of the

country during the French Mandate. Far from being

a fairy tale, Fragments of Memory employs a realistic

style to describe the harsh physical, social and

political and social events of the day. Rather,

historical events are encountered as they filter

through a set of multiple lenses. The first lens is

memory which Mina describes as "the eye of the fish under water in a storm" (p. 143). The second lens is

the perspective of the young son of the family -

presumably Mina himself as a boy — who tells the

story. The third lens is the mother of the family.

In one of the few passages where Mina writes

directly as the author speaking in retrospect. He

book The past has always found a lively reception in sac it matures in my being, is clarified and becomes translucent as drops of clear water... Seldom de I draw my subject matter from any source other.

other these these drops; from that thing that has fermented been refined and become alcohol liable to

economic conditions under which they lived. Yet, Fragments of Memory is not the typical social realistic novel with sweeping descriptions of the

indeed, a modern Oriental fairy tale.

Family

By Hanna Mina

Austin, 1993

what he was saying."



Nawai El Saadawi

Sadat's assassination in 1981). Born in 1931, Saadawi graduated from the University of Cairo Faculty of Medicine in 1955. Throughout her adult life, she has managed to combine her life as a prolific writer with a career in public health.

Saadawi is most widely known in the West for The Hidden Face of Eve (1982), a nonfiction work on women in Arab cultures. However, her reputation in the Arab World is based equally on her political essays. literary criticism and fictional works.

Readers who wish to acquaint themselves with Saadawi's literary artistry should skip Memoirs From The Women's Prison and turn directly to her novel. Saadawi's incarceration was too brief - she was released after eight weeks - to yield any original insights into the plight of political prisoners.

Moreover, many Western liberals (including feminists) will be put off by some of the political views Saadawi puts forth in her memoir. In a 1994 postscrips, for instance, she suggests that "human rights" has become a slogan for the powerful to use against the weak. "How many nations are there," she asks, "where human rights are violated without anyone revealing these transgressions — certainly they do not appear in international reports — simply because the head of state or the monarch is an

obedient follower of the world's great powers?" During the past decade breaches of human rights by dictatorships of the left, right and centre have indeed appeared regularly in current interna-

If the author were jailed today, news of her fate would be transmitted instantly by the same organisations that hepled publicise the plight of Taslima Nasreen, a Bangladeshi feminist who recently fled to Sweden because her "blasphemous" activities had endangered her life in her own country.

But these questions should not and do not impeach the power of the artist whose virtuosity is displayed in her novel The Innocence Of The Devil. Set in a mental institution, the novel combines a portrait of women in a patriarchal society with an allegory that

BOOK REVIEW

amounts to a heretical argument with God. God and Satan (in earthly incarnations, of course) are both

The narrative moves between reality and fantasy, past and present, and traces intricate relationships among the male beings, the institution's head nurse and two women patients. One of the patients, Ganat (in Arabic, the plural of paradise), had known the nurse. Narguiss, in an intense youthful friendship.

Each of the women — and the devil — has been victimised by a society in which theological and civil authority form a unified patriarchy. Although the institutionalised devil is a man, it is crucial to understand that Islam, like Christianity and Judaism, has a long tradition (rejected by liberal theologians) linking Satan with the weak and impure female body.

The head nurse, Narguiss, who has tried to bury her memories by serving the system, recalls an old argument between her parents. Her father insists that God forgave only Adam — not Eve — for their disobedience. The deity u ses plural pronouns when he speaks of original sin but shifts to the singular form in absolving Adam.

"God had a deep knowledge of language and its rules," Narguiss remembers. "He would never use the singular or the dual except in the right context... (Guilt grew under her ribs like a swelling in her flesh.) She had to live this sin. No atonement could be made, no words of forgiveness could come from

God." One great virtue of this novel is that American readers will be forced to refer to passages on the Creation and Fall from Christian and Jewish Bibles as well as the Koran, \$4 adawi's discourse with God rests on her own mastery of sacred texts, so it is hardly surprising - indee d, it is an author's prerogative — that God never gets the better of the argument — The Washington Post.

Susan Jacoby

Syria's Peasantry in Retrospect

the match stick of recall" (p. 3). These are two of the many instances where Mina evokes the imagery of water and the sea which characterises much of his other writing. In Fragments of Memory, this imagery stands in sharp contrast to the barren environment in which his protagonists live. However, it highlights an important fact in the history of the family whose story is told: They, like Mina himself, are originally from the coastal city, Latakia. It is poverty that has forced them to wander

ignite and blaze up within me when touched off by

inland in search of a living. Midway into the novel, there is mention of popular revolts erupting in the areas of Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia and other places. But mainly, events are related by the young boy as he experiences them. In spatial terms, this is an extremely narrow lens for viewing the world, for he seldom leaves the immediate vicinity of the hut and fields where his sharecropper family live and work. For him, the best part of life is cuddling up to his mother and listening to the stories she tells to keep fear, hunger and misery at

The boy's ideas of the outside world are gleaned from this illiterate woman who has experienced life via the seasons, migrations and twists of fate that impacted on her family. The lens provided by her understanding of reality is both extremely limited and broad. Poverty and social traditions preclude her

from education or even going shopping on her own. Overall, the family's situation seems to preclude their taking any initiative to improve their lives. Everything is determined by the power relations of the semi-feudal system where sharecroppers render three-fourths of their crop to the landowner. This makes them virtual slaves who cannot leave the estate until paying the debt will never be able to pay; who perpetually live on the brink of starvation; and who are forced to hand over their wives or daughters as domestic servants, or worse, in the homes of the

At the same time, the lens of the mother's experience is broad, for the family actually lives the sweeping historical events of the times. The parents grew up as famine struck Greater Syria during world

War I, when Britain and France blockaded the coast in line with their military strategy. The mother and father experienced this as Safar Baar (a journey by land), as thousands of coastal city residents migrated inland in search of food.

The children of the family grow up as the next big catastrophe hits: Syria's raw silk industry collapses when cheaper synthetic silk floods the market. The family is successful in raising silkworms, but when they go to sell the precious cocoons, the landowner refuses to buy them. In a bitter irony, the fate of this family living in a primative, isolated, rural environment is entirely dependent on the whims of the world market.

The end of the novel bears direct witness to the

sparks of the exciting historical events of the times, as peasants first pilfer from and then burn the mukhtar's grain storage to alleviate and protest their impending starvation. Fragments of Memory presages the peasant revolts that formed the backbone of Syria's national independence struggle. The conclusion of the book is as much an irrtroduction to a new story of modern Syrian history, and one wishes the author to continue. Hanna Mina has, of course, written "the rest of the story" elsewhere in Arabic. Hopefully. this is not the last of his works to be translated for the English readership.

BOOK REVIEWS

Sally Bland

Career of distinction

Iraqi Statesman: A Portrait Of Momammad Fadhei Jamali

By Harry J. Almond Grosvenor Books, London 1993, £11.95

I have known Dr. Jamali for almost half a century. But until the appearance of this book I was unaware of his interest in the movement known as Moral Rearmament and his friendship with Dr. Buchman. This is the somewhat unusual route by which Almond reached his decision to undertake a study of the former Iraqi minister whose career had been largely conducted on the international stage, beginning with the San Francisco conference in 1945 and continuing through many sessions of United Nations' organs and the Afro-Asian conference at Bandung in 1955,

where he was one of the leading anti-Communists.
His career had started in the Ministry of Education, but he was transferred to foreign affairs by Nuri Al-Said in 1943. The background to this transfer seems to have involved suspicions, probably false, that he had pro-German sympathies, and pressure from the British embassy that he should consequently be removed from a position of influence on Iraqi youth. This does not explain the choice of the Foreign Ministry, which may have had some connection with the custom of including one or two Shiite ministers in the predom inantly Sunni governments of the time. The general preference given to members of the Sunni community resulted in a small number of Shiftes acquiring an exceptionally privileged position. Jamali was foreign minister five times and prime minister for seven months.

After the revolution of 1958 he was sentenced to death, but he was eventually released after three years' imprisonment. The chapter describing this experience is based on his own recollections and is the most interesting in the book. His release in 1961 was shortly followed by an invitation from President Bourguibat to settle in Tunisia, a country of which he was already an honorary citizen. There he embarked on a long epilogue (he is now in his 91st year) largely occupied by teaching in the University of Tunis and by writing. His mentoirs are written but not yet published — Middle East International.

Haroid Beeley

Report finds vitamins, minerals can save millions of lives

The report, Enriching

Lives, estimates that an

imaginary country of 50

million with the level of

micronutrient deficiencies

that exists today in South

Asia would likely suffer

the following annual los-

ses due entirely to in-

adequate Vitamin A, iron

and iodine: 20,000 deaths.

11,000 children born men-

tally retarded or blinded

as preschoolers, 1.3 mil-

lion persons-years of work

lost due to lethargy or

more severe disability,

and 360,000 student-years

morethan two billion peo-

ple are at risk from micro-

nutrient deficiencies and

Globally, it finds that

wasted.

By Jon Schaffer USIA

WAŞHINGTON — Millions of lives around the world would be saved and the health of hundreds of millions of others improved if three vitamin and mineral deficiencies in people's diets were eradicated, according to a new World Bank report.

The report, released on Dec. 16, says that deficiencies in three socalled "micronutrients" -vitamin A, iodine and iron are responsible for some of the most burdensome diseases in the world.

The World Bank found that more than 13 million people suffer night blind-

ness or total blindness because of lack of Vitamin A and that six of every 10 pre-school children with severe Vitamin A deficiency die. Vitamin A is found in fruits and vegetables, liver and breast

About 1,000 million people worldwide suffer from anemia caused by iron deficiencies, and an equal number lack adequate iodine in their food, according to the report.

It says that about 30 per cent of the children in Africa who enter hospitals with severe anemia die unless given blood transfusion. In Bangladesh, 99.5 per cent of all pregnant women are anemic, and two thirds of these have low life expectancy, it

severe anemia, contributing to 20 per cent of all maternal deaths and to low birth weights of the children there, it says. Iron is found in red meat and breast milk. It also is found in grains, legumes and vegetables, but is less easily-absorbed from these unless taken at the same time with meat or foods rich in Vitamin C.

Five to 10 children of every 1,000 births by women who do not eat seafood or otherwise get iodine, such as through iodine-fortified salt, are dead upon birth or soon thereafter, the report says. Many of those who survive are mentally retarded, spastic and have acutely ill or disabled by

"This report demonstrates for the first time the terrible social and economic consequencies of these deficiencies to a nation." Alan Berg, senior nutrition advisor with the World Bank, said in a press release.

The report says that as much as 5 per cent of a country's gross domestic product may be wasted in lost lives, disability and productivity as a result of micronutrient malnutri-

Addressing micronut-rient deficiencies globally . will require an estimated \$1 billion annually, it says. Most of these costs will ulimtately be borne by consumers when purchas-

in the short run, donors and governments may have to assume a major financial burden for project preparation and startup costs, it says.

The report argues that corrective solutions are very cheap with substantial payoffs — as high as 84 times the programme

"One measure is to fortify the food and water supply," it says. "In a country of 50 million peoole, this would cost about \$25 million per year, or 50 cents per capita. The \$25 million investment would vield a 40-fold return on investment, even without counting the future losses due to poor school per-

The report says that salt, bread and water can be fortified with iodine; wheat flour, commeal. rice, sait, sugar, condiments, milk, infant cereals and processed foods can be fortified with iron; and sugar, cooking fat, margarine, vegetable oils and tea can be fortified with Vitamin A.

Other approaches include supplementing the diet with pharmaceutical nutrients and by dietary change through expanding the demand for, and supply of, nutrient-rich foods.

The report notes some success stories. India reauires the iodization of salt. As a result three million tonnes of salt are io-

ing food with higher nutri- formance and low work dized out of total salt contional quality. However, output." sumption of 4.5 million sumption of 4.5 million tonnes. In Guatemaia, the school-feeding programme uses a biscuit fortified with a number of vitamins and minerals. In Chile and the United States infant foods are fortified with

> In 1995, the World Bank said, it will lend \$60 million for various micronutrient projects — the largest including iodizing salt, fortifying cooking oil with Vitamin A and introducing iron-fortified wheat flour in Pakistan and salt iodization in China. Other projects include iodizing water from pumps in Mali and making iron tablets available to pregnant women in Bang-

Progress made in shrinking tumours in lab animals

By Joanne Kenen Reuter

WASHINGTON — Scientists have reported progress in cutting off blood supply to a wide variety of tumours in laboratory animals, a finding that could lead to new ways of making human cancers shrink and dis-

"We don't want to oversell this — we're not saying we have the magic bullet, there's a lot more research to be done. But so far, we have green lights," said Dr. David Cheresh, one of the lead scientists on the project at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Califor-

The research by Dr. Cheresh and colleague Peter Brooks was published the journal Cell.

The Scripps team was able to block growth of new blood vessels that feed tumours without

BUTTINSKIES

healthy tissue in laboratory animals. They accomplished this with a single injection of a monoclonal antibody named LM609 or

with a small synthetic pep-Without a blood supply, the tumour shrinks and vanishes.

The team got encouraging results in an array of solid tumours — including lung, colon, breast and brain canders.

Though Dr. Cheresh is excited about his findings and believes they hold promise. he stressed that approaches that work well in laboratories can turn out to be disappointments in human trials. Studies will have to be completed on the antibody's toxicity or possible harmful side effects in humans before clinical trials can start, probably in around 18

It is customary for the first human trials to involve severely ill people, whose cancer is already

not responded to other treatments.

But the research with chicken embryos, described in Cell, as well as more recent studies on laboratory mice, has been very encouraging, Dr. Cheresh told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"It's having an exciting and powerful impact on cancer," he said.

The Scripps team used human tumour fragments placed in chicken embryos. Within a few hours, the pieces of tumour began attracting new blood vessels, just as they would in human beings. Within 24 hours, they were injected with the antibody or with a control antibody.

In those injected with LM609, the blood vessels to the tumours shrank and disappeared in the pancreas, breast, brain, lung and larynx.

Normal blood vessels were unaffected. And once the turnour vanished, blood vessels in normal advanced and who have the chicken embryos de- blood vessels.

veloped normally. In those with the control substance, the blood vessels proliferated and

the tumours could thrive. In a related study, still in progress, the LM609 injection also shows promise in treating eye disease, including mascular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy, that are caused when new blood vessels form in the back of the eye. Both diseases can cause blindness.

A San Diego-based company Ixsys, Inc. has licensed the LM609 antibody and has created a humanised form of it. The goal is to begin clinical trials within the next 18 months, first for cancer and then for eye disease, Dr. Cheresh .aid.

Further down the road. the approach may also hold promise for treating various inflammatory diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, that also prompt the body to grow new

Fake medicines, poor policing sap Asia's health

By Shyam Kumar Reuter

BOMBAY — Fake medicines from filthy, illequipped, fly-by-night factories are sapping the health of Asia's poor in the absence of effective policing and deterrent penalties, companies, doctors and health advocates

For European and U.S. multinationals eyeing one of the world's largest markets for pharmaceuticals, counterfeit drugs compound the problems of a tough market bedevilled by lack of enforceable patent and trademark laws, industry analysts say.

Spurious medicines such as tablets that are often nothing but compressed chalk powder are prevalent in parts of China and the Indian subcontinent where literacy levels are low, hospitals starved for money and state health departments poorly staf-

And, they are also a problem in parts of South East Asia.

There are hundreds of ill-equipped and often unhygienic drug manufacturing units in India. And India's rag pickers who veloped by leading pharcollect empty medicine maceutical firms.

bottles are a major conduit for underground gangs counterfeiting drugs on the subcontinent.

But the extent of counterfeits is still guesswork, as there is no central monitoring agency," said Arun Bal of the Bombaybased Association for Community Action in Safety and Health (ACASH).

Last year, the Health Department of the Westem state of Maharashtra ordered Glaxo India, one of the India's leading drug companies, to close its Bombay factory for a week after finding products the factory rejected were reaching the market through the company's scrap dealers.

N.I. Gandhi, managing director of Indian drug firm Lyka Labs said better packaging would prevent adulteration, but the Indian government will not allow reimbursement of packaging costs for pricecontrolled medicines.

Fakes are not so much the problem in the Philippines, Thailand and other parts of South East Asia as is the copying of brand-name drugs deLegitimate drug com-panies in the Philippines are pressing for laws to tighten the definition of counterfeiting and to impose heavier penalties on it. They say counterfeiters are hard to prosecute, as they are mostly underground operations.

Until last year, both China and Thailand did not accept product patent protection — India still does not — thereby making legal the sale of generic copies of medicines still under patent protection

Generic medicines, which duplicate the chemical formula of an originally patented product but do not carry its brand name, allow the drug to be sold at a lower price, either because the life of the original patent has expired or by license agreement with the holder of an unexpired patent.

Aftab Malik, of the Pharmaceutical Producers Association of Thailand says many generic medi-cines available in Thailand are not as effective as the brand-name originals, exposing consumers to dan-

"The argument that generics are not effective is not true," said Amar Jessani, a Bombay doctor. "They have the same effect on the human sys-

But a generic drug's effectiveness depends on the equipment and quality standards of the drug company making it. In Indonesia, the gov-

ernment is seeking to ease restrictions on the sale of generic medicines, which are significantly cheaper than the brand-name lead-

But the country faces the problem of syndicates

illegally producing substandard medicines or ineffective placebos --- and selling the fake pills for one-fifth the price of the genuine articles.

"Counterfeits are always a problem, but the industry is not talking about it as much as it was a year or so ago," said con-sultant Jim Castle of Business Advisory Indonesia.

Foreign drug companies selling in China have the additional problem of not being able to register their patents and trademarks if local Chinese firms get onto the market first with a generic duplicate of their product.

"Local generics often apply before us, and when this happens we are not allowed to distribute that product for three years," said an executive. "The Chinese are savvy about doing this and getting in ahead of foreign firms," he said.

Fake- and look-alike drugs continue to be sold in parts of China thanks to local government protection, companies said.

Though recently, the Tianjin City authorities intervened to close down a plant making counterfeits. The stock was burnt and two people were arrested.

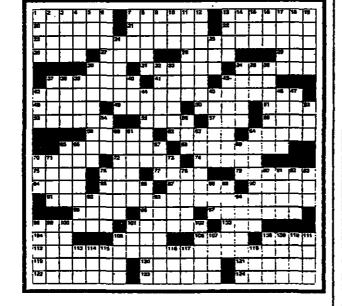
People could get killed because of lack of proper medicines," said an executive. "The government is not yet willing to take severe penalties.

Leading pharmaceutical firms in China are trying to protect themselves by reducing their distributors to a few recognised, authorised dealers.

"If the hospital buys elsewhere, they know there is no guarantee that the product is not counterfeit," said one legitimate

WEEKEND CROSSWORD





Diagramless 21 x 21 By Roger Coburn

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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Last Week's Cryptograms

- Tall giraffe has bird's-eye view of fellow inmates at zoo: zebras, hyenze, welves, tigers and many more.
 Buttoning new blazer, ex tramp explains how a big happenstance altered his haphazard circumstances. a Old country pestor has good selection of buttons by years of passing the plate in his not so bountiful church.
- If our throwsway lifestyle continues, we could be buried under our trash. 1.WJJQSL BDBWNLWRHAQ NJEELE TJJNRBCC NJ LIP TJW BDBAQ KAJWL SI TSIEC

3.PUPI LI PEWPAB SGNYPC MR EMYPEC BG MISHAP DER NGNECK MZ DMR DGARP ZLMER BG GLYP SHOW GUPA ZPINP.

- 2. OEP BUK Z BEEF REN PORK HEN FRRK DECKTREY NET DUND JUT BUREZAUG LE BEJIB IK ANAAGIKT KEL. — By Dunne H. McGogy
- 4.OELI ZMNE JGTRE TIP SMAALL OLGL BLGRLP SMFP, UN PLAN NEL BMGGE PUILG

U.N. cites joint *programmes* to fight AIDS

By Wendy Lubetkin USIA

GENEVA - The director of the United Nation's new joint programme on AIDS says he intends to take a multifaceted approach to the epidemic that would promote development and human rights, and focus on the impact of the disease on individuals. communities and health services.

"It was already clear five or 10 years ago that this disease cuts across all levels and all aspects of society and the human condition," Dr. Peter Piot told a Dec. 16 press con-ference. "With AIDS prevention and control there is no single remedy, no

single approach.
"The challenge" of directing the new interagency programme will be to find the right ba-

lance." he said.
The United Nations programme will bring together the AIDS-related activities of six different programmes: the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations Development United Nations Educational. Scientific and Michael Merson until the Cultural Organisation end of 1995 at which time (UNESCO): the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF); the World Bank; and the World Health me, according to Dr. Piot. Organisation (WHO).

Secretary General Bout-ros Ghali appointed Dr. Piot, a 45-year-old Belgian physician who has been active in the AIDS field for over a decade, to head the new programme.
The aim of the joint effort, Dr. Ghali explained, will be to "unite our efforts, coordinate our actions and reduce duplication.

Dr. Piot says he is "under no illusions about the challenges ahead."

"Bringing six agencies together in this way has never been done before, but I am confident that it can be done because of the nature of the problem, which can unite agencies, as it can unite people," he

In many ways the joint programme will be "a kind of test case, or laboratory" for U.N. interagency cooperation on other global issues, he

Since 1987, international efforts to combat the AIDS epidemic have been coordinated by the WHO's Global Programme on AIDS (GPA). The WHO programme will Programme (UNDP): the continue its work under the direction of Dr. certain of its components will be absorbed by the new interagency program-

The programme will be On Dec. 12 U.N. headquartered in Geneva.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. As long as 300 to 400 years.

- 2. A pen name or pseudonym.
- 3. From 5¾ to 5½ ounces.
- 4. Congruent.
- 5. From the town where it is produced, Cognac,

* * * * *

PUZZLES

- (A) LOVEMATCH 1. Cleopatra.
- 2. Josephine.
- 3. Elizabeth Taylor. 4. Elizabeth Barrett.

(B) CIRCLE LINE



Walter Walter

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Moi pushes for Sudan talks

NAIROBI (Agencies) — The presidents of Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and vicepresident of Uganda met on Wednesday in a new year bid to revive deadlocked talks to end a 12-year-old war in south Sudan.

Neither side in the conflict. Sudan's military government of General Omar Hassan Al Bashir and the divided Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels, were invited to the talks in Nairobi.
Officials said it was a

ground-breaking meeting in the search for peace, with Kenya suggesting mediators prospose resumed face-toface talks if thorny issues were put aside at first. Official sources said Kenya

wanted the Khartoum govemment to ease its position at negotiations on Islamic Sharia law in exchange for the rebels doing the same on their demands for selfdetermination in the wardevastated south.

The SPLA says it wants a secular state and recognitison that southerners, who are mainly Christian or animist, can determine the future status of their region.

Khartoum says Sudan — African's largest country cannot be sub-divided and it is not willing to compromise on Sharia law.

2.5

1.75

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The sources said if the mediators agreed on the proposals they would call a new round of talks with both sides within a month.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, Eritrea's Isayas Afewerki and Ethiopia's Meles Zenawi and Ugandan Vice-President Specioze Wandira Kazibwe met under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drough and Development

Neither Mr. Moi nor the other regional leaders made any formal statements to journalists before their oneday summit on Sudan opened at state house, Mr. Moi's official residence in Nairobi. The last IGADD summit on Sudan was held in Lilong-

we early last month, also under Mr. Moi's chairmanship. President Bashir said after that meeting that steps had been taken for a peace con-ference soon with the rebels, but gave no details.

Government and rebel negotiators have held three rounds of talks in Nairobi since 1993, but without suc-

Gen. Bashir, whose military junta seized power in 1989, appealed to the rebels on Sunday — the 39th anniversary of independence from Anglo-Egyptian rule to lay down their arms. He called on exiles to return to Sudan, but warned at the same time that he was training a million loyalists in

the use of arms.
"We advocate peace," he said, but went on to declare that his moves were aimed at preparing a jihad to defend the country and the faith."

The rebel movement splintered last month, with a faction led by Lam Akol splitting off last month from the Southern Sudan Independence Army (SSIA) of Riek Machar - itself a splinter group of the main SPLA headed by John Garang — to reform the Sudan People's Liberation Army-United, the former name of the SSIA.

The rebels have fared badly on the battlefield, and admit they will be facing overwhelming odds during the coming offensive, expected to start this month, with supplies of material drying up as a result of the

splintering of the movement. The government meanwhile estimates the cost of the civil war at \$1 million a day. It signed a letter of intent with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in November to reschedule its IMF debt, estimated at \$1.7



Israeli machinery start working Wednesday on a new site to widen the Israeli settlement of Ephrat (AFP photo)

Israel-PLO self-rule talks stalled

pall over the Israeli-PLO crisis talks which ended in disarray in Cairo on Tuesday.

"The level of trust is no longer what it was between Israel and the Palestinians," government spokesman Uri Dromi said after Tuesday's talks in Cairo.

There is general frustration. We reproach them for not doing enough to fight terrorism and they accuse us of continuing settlements and delaying our redeployment on the West Bank," Mr. Dromi said.

"But the frequency of our meetings shows that the sides are looking for ways to prevent the peace process from

collapsing."
Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat are to meet next week at the Erez crossing between Israel and the self-rule Gaza Strip in a bid to break the deadlock, although no specific day has

been mentioned. One senior official said he expected progress when the

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Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said in Cairo late Tuesday that there was real concern about the future of autonomy which was launched in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho

"What we have is a real fear that the peace process will be stalled, interrupted, which will then end all our achievements," he said.

Dr. Shaath said he had received some assurances from Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on the question of settlements but they were

The Palestinians wanted to see a total halt to settlement building, especially around Jerusalem, and not just the transfer of construction from one hill to another.

The Israeli government decided this week to stop the so harsh since the start of the extension of a settlement at

which has been depleted by

refugee departures, last

Saturday. Hundreds of people are

feared to have been killed in

days of street battles, but

Dzbokhar Dadayev bave so

far defied all attempts 10

fighters loyal to rebel leader

(Continued from page d) 1 Ephrat, near Bethlehem, following Palestinian protests, but then authorised the building of 260 new homes nearby.

> began clearing land for building at the new site. But the compromise has done little to defuse the crisis over Jewish settlements, one of the thorniest points to be

negotiated in the 1993 Israeli-PLO peace deal. Witnesses said workers broke ground for housing units on a hillside tract next to

another hill where Israeli troops and protesters clashed last week over plans to build on what Arab villagers said was their land. On Monday Israel's government, under pressure

from its Palestinian peace partners, had halted work at the scene of the clashes, near the village of Al Khader, but authorised work on another location, closer to the existing Jewish settlement of Ephrat.

The PLO maintains continued settlement will wreck the talks.

"As one who has taken art in very many meetings like this, I can say that this was a perhaps especially difficult meeting," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, a senior negotiator and an architect of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, told Israel Radio.

Mr. Sarid expressed hope the talks would get back on track when Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat meet in Gaza next

Mr. Peres said in Cairo that his government had decided not to build any new settlements, not to confiscate land to enlarge existing settiements or invest public money in other extensions.

"The Palestinians made an extraordinary, nit-picking presentation against Israeli policy in the territories," a senior Israeli foreign ministry official said.

The tone has rarely been process. It is clear the Palesti-

mans no longer trust the Israelis," he said.

Spokesman Dromi said: "This process has experi-Bulidozers on Wednesday enced ups and downs. But we have known worse, for example, after Hebron," where a Palestinians at prayer last February.

"We know where we are going. In May 1996 at the latest we will negotiate the final status. The only problem is the rate at which we are advancing," he said.

No progress has been reported in the last several weeks on overcoming differences over extending autonomy on the West Bank.

Dr. Shaath said the Cairo meeting was tense also because of demands for the release of Palestinian prison-

He denied Israel's claim that prisoners had not been released because they had not signed a pledge to renounce terror. "Among the prisoners are 700 who have signed the pledges demanded by Israel but they have not

been released," he said. He said that 60 per cent of the prisoners were from moderate Palestinian factions which support the peace pro-

"Holding thousands of Palestinian prisoners is an unforgivable crime. I told them we refuse any racist talk which says they (the prisoners) have blood on their hands, because I say every Israeli pilot who has fired bombs on Palestinian camps and killed children has blood on his hands," he added. Dr. Shaath said all sides should forget past grievances

in a time of peace. When we reach peace, we reach peace to end all these acts, so all these people who have participated as occupiers or resistance fighters did so in the past, and everything should finish now, these prisoners should no longer be

in detention," he said.

raids. "The decision was taken on the basis of the materials the president has received ... and guided by the desire to prevent an increase in the number of victims among the civilian population'," the press service said in a state-

West worried over Yeltsin's Chechenya dilemma

By Nicholas Doughty Reuter

LONDON - Western governments, which have so far voiced only muted criticism of Moscow over the Russian blitz in Chechenya, face an increasingly un-

pleasant dilemma. Diplomats say the United States and its European allies are aware that the conflict over the breakaway region could seriously damage President Boris Yelt-sin's position, something the West is desperate to avoid.

Outright condemnation of Russia, Europe's biggest power, would also make relations worse at a time when they are already strained over other questions such as the expansion of NATO to Eastern Europe and U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq.

But diplomats concede that gruesome television pictures and graphic reports of civilian casualties in Grozny show Russia has violated international principles - principles reaffirmed only last month at a European security summit in Budapest.

"There is a problem for us, a dilemma that gets worse the longer the fighting goes on," said one European diplomat.

"The political reality dictates that, if we're smart, we'll keep fairly quiet while making the right noises of concern. But that means we put aside the moral questions as the price.

That gap between reality and solemn declarations of principle is as old as diplomacy itself and has been much in evidence in the post-cold war world, from Somalia to Bosnia.

So far, "realpolitik" still has the upper hand in the West — even though gov-ernments are increasingly

With Mr. Yeltsin's own advisers openly admitting that the crisis has weakened his position and his public ratings hitting record lows, the fear is that Russia's future could now be at

Western governments have pinned their hopes on Mr. Yeltsin to guide his country through democratic and economic reforms to a new era of stability, much as they pinned their hopes on the Soviet Union's last leader, Mikhail Gorbachev.

"There are many who say we shouldn't focus so much on Yeltsin but it's hard to see who else to support. He is our best hope and we cannot afford to do anything that might undermine him, especially now over Chechenya," said another diplomat.

"It's not worth souring our relations with Moscow to a dangerous degree for Chechenya. That's the real-

ity."
When the crisis flared in December, Western governments said it was an internal Russian affair and voiced the hope that Moscow would resolve it quickly and with minimum



BORIS YELTSIN: A president in trouble

bloodshed Those hopes have been dashed.

The United States expressed concern that planes had bombed civilian targets in Grozny just two days before Russian tanks moved into the city on New Year's Eve.

But President Bill Clinton said the conflict was not 'black and white" and that there was no comparison with China's crushing of pro-democracy protesters in 1989. Russia was trying to deal as best it could with

a "secessionist movement." France, anxious to be seen making an active start to its presidency of the European Union (EU), said on Monday it wanted to use a pan-European security body to help resolve the crisis through dia-

logue and negotiation. But Paris did not say how it would use the 53-nation Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), of which Russia is a leading member.

Any action would require the consent of Russia since the OSCE works only

through agreement among all member states. Diplomats said Moscow was unlikely to cooperate at this

stage.
All member states of the OSCE subscribe on paper to principles including the rejection of the use of force, respect for minorities and protection of human

rights.
These were drawn up during the 1970s at the height of the cold war. The West argued at the time that this meant no state could continue to say that how it treated its own people was purely an "internal affair."

Western governments no longer appear to be taking the same line with Chechenya but some, at least, are aware that this does not do justice to oftenrepeated principles.

Germany issued the strongest statement yet about the crisis in Chechenya on Monday, accusing Russia of violating human rights by using an unwarranted amount of force.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Moscow disregarded a request by EU ambassadors last week

to show restraint. But German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said on Tuesday his country still backed Mr. Yeltsin and that the conflict remained an internal affair for Russia to settle.

"The whole episode is a tragedy and it cannot be solved from abroad," Mr.

Philippe Starck, design with a human face

By Pierre Michel

WHAT DISTINGUISHES Philippe Starck from any other designer is the way that the objects that he creates fit into their period, the ability they have to escape their creator and to blend into the use for which they are intended. Therein lies the whole of Mr. Starck's ambiguousness and genius. Each of the creations of this myth-making media star is independent and has the ability to make its own success and its own myth. But, at the same time, it fits into another perspective, one that, through all his other achievements, contributes. to constructing a story or a

Philippe Starck set up his own agency at the beginning of the 1980s. He wanted to have a small staff and a flexible structure in order to maintain a hauteconture spirit. He made his first, and maybe most prestigious, creations in the area of interior design, first of all in Paris with the "Bains-Douches" nightclubs, the president's apartments in the Elysée Palace and the "Costes" café near the "Halles" district, and then in Tokyo with the "Manin" restaurant, and in New York with the "Royal-

ton" Hotel. His second area of activ-

ity is, in chronological order, that of furniture design. He is very prolific in this sector. His best-known pieces of furniture include the Dole Melipone folding table, the Ray Menta lamp, the Jack Lang collection or his collection for the Habitat store and for the 3 Suisses catalogue. The agency's two departments are industrial design and architecture. The former includes a new line of Laguiole knives, a revolutionary lemonsqueezer, a toothbrush which has now become a issic, and ver the latest range of Thomson television sets. Philippe Starck's architectural activities have, above all, developed in Japan (the Nani Nani building in Tokyo). In France, people are waiting for the imminent appearance of the individual house, sold by correspondence, that he designed for

the 3 Suisses. In such diversified and considerable work, one may wonder what coherence and what constants can be found, all the more as, when he is questioned. Philippe Starck always strongly asserts his mistrust of globalising theories, of the usual splitting-up into concepts (for instance: modernism/postmodernism) and of what is

written in general. In fact, he prefers the spoken word. He has an art for finding the right expressions. He strings them along during the countless interviews that he gives, in the specialised or general press, giving us the sparse keys to decipher his work. Out of all his-key words, there are six major ones: - The word "Service+"

takes up and extends the concept of functionalism. Philippe Starck explains, "pleasure, semantics, poetry, humour and magic music de considered as functions in the same way as other more utilitarian ones. - The term "minimum object" explains Mr.

Starck's taste for simplicity and economy which he opposes to the minimalism of the modern movement of the 20s. He replaces the famous expression by the German architect Mies Van Der Rohe "Less is more" by "doing more with less." - Another key-concept.

that of "anonymity+" reminds the designer of the necessity to disappear, to efface himself behind his objects and to let them find their autonomy on their

- "Symbolism and scenarios" is perhaps the most

important category to understand Philippe Starck's work. He usually opposes it to the notion of style. For him, the aesthetic work on an object should no longer be stylistic but semantic. He frequently repeats. "I do not make shapes, I make meaning." - Another essential ex-

pression, that of "magic design." imparts Mr. Starck's dream of having the object disappear in favour of its use and of having a new relationship defined between man and object, which is no longer technolo-gical in nature," but poetry, magic and sensuality. "Magic, means Kubrick, says Mr. Stark, "It is the monolith of "2001. Space Odyssey." It is that object which has descended from the sky, which is neither a

the circumspect shape of a parallelepiped." - The ulterior stage of evolution, according to Mr. Starck, should be "biomechanical design," that is to say a synthesis of the mechanical and the organic, in which the object becomes an extension of

piece of furniture nor a

machine, all of whose func-

tions are concealed behind

the body, a prosthesis. Concerning these few precepts, Philippe Starck prefers to speak of method

rather than theory, a pragmatic method to "do" for Mr. Starck is a man of action, an unsatiable worker, driven by pure energy. He often uses the image of a whale which swallows up everything that crosses its path, in its enormous mouth, to express his curiosity and his gluttonous interest in everything around him, indefinitely, images, objects and people, without any censorship. He is in on all journeys and all experiences, daytime ones just as much as night-time nes. He no do this taste for adventure from his original childhood, which was complex although wealthy, during which he was unable to fit into any standard mould or any classical framework. Since then, he has enjoyed being in that avant-garde fringe of the world and in that out-of-synch position from which he is able to perceive his period and be in tune with it so as to better invent it and antici-

pate it in its modernity. Perhaps Philippe Starck's greatest quality, in this arid world of specialists, is to be all-embracing, in the humanistic acceptance of the term, that is to say a free

L'Actualite en France

KABUL (Agencies) - United States Ambassador to Pakistan John Monjo flew into Afghanistan Wednesday and met with senior factional leaders to express U.S. supsources said.

Monjo, Rabbani and Masoud was very constructive," an Afghan source told AFP. Afghan analysts observed that Mr. Monjo's flying visit was an example of what U.N.

seeking ways to try and solve the Afghan crisis. In the late afternoon, Mr. Monjo flew to the eastern

Hekmatyar arrived in Jalalaformal photograph. bad early Wednesday to prepare for talks with Mr. Mes-

show Kim at one with military cy issued a photograph showing Mr. Kim at the

North Korea aims to

By David Brunnstrom Reuter

SEOUL - By releasing new year pictures of unanointed leader Kim Jong-II, North Korea is trying to show the world his political base is secure, especially among the powerful military, analysts say.

Speculation as to Mr. Kim's health and hold on power has grown since the death of his father Kim-Il-Sang on July 8. Despite being his long-designated successor, he has yet to formally take up the elder Kim's supreme leadership positions.

This week, North Korea released television footage of Kim Jong-II visiting a unit of the Korean People's Army on new year's day. His chubby face was pale under a fur hat, but he looked lively and in better health than he appeared at his father's funeral in July. He gesticulated enthu-

siastically as he apparently for National Unification. discussed operations with. senior officers and was applauded wildly by troops, with whom he posed for a

On Monday, North Korea's official news agen-

event receiving flowers from a soldier it said belonged to military Unit 214.
"The servicemen enthu-

siastically welcomed him, shouting the slogan, 'Let us devotedly fight for the respected Supreme Commander General Kim Jong-Il'," the agency said in a report on the event on Sunday. The last time North

Korea reported a public

appearance by Kim Jong-Il was more than two months Analysts in Seoul said the pictures appeared aimed at quashing speculation abroad that he was in poor health and losing his influ-

ence over the powerful military. "They are trying to show the outside world that the military is supporting him, to show that his power base is secure," said Ok Tae-Hwan, a researcher at Seoul's Research Institute

'We have had a lot of speculation that he is facing problems, that he is sick, but there has been no clear evidence to support that," he said

"Rumour is rumour — I

still doubt he is really sick," Mr. Ok said. "I think Kim Jong-Il is still in control.' On Sunday, North

Korea's state-run media said the most important task for the new year was to unite under 52-year-old Kim, but he did not make the new year's address his father had given in past vears.

Radio Pyongvang instead reran Kim II-Sung's message from the previous new year, after reading a leng-thy joint editorial by all of North Korea's major news-Dapers.

Mr. Ok and other analysts said they did not consider it unusual that Kim Jong-II had not given the address, as this had been given in the past by his father as national president.

Although Kim Jong-Il is supreme commander of the North Korean army, he still has not been named national president, general secretary of the ruling communist party, or to his father's post as head of the party's milit-

ary commission. State television did air a mass stage show in Kim Jong-il's bonour on Sunday, with young girls dancing against a huge portrait

of him surrounded by the national flag and missiles. Some analysts in Seonl and elsewhere have speculated that North Korea wants to continue to make use of Kim Il-Sung's legacy as undisputed leader of the Stalinist state for 50 years to ensure national unity and compensate for Kim Jong-Il's comparative lack of

leadership charisma. They believe the younger Kim, who is short, pudgy, bespectacled, and according to past South Korean intelligence reports a harddrinking womaniser, does not command the same un-

questioning respect and loyalty his father enjoyed. U.S. officials commenting on efforts last month to obtain the release of a captured American helicopter pilot said they had detected policy frictions between the military and government

officials.

They said it appeared conservative elements in the military were unhappy with the breakthrough nuclear accord reached between the United States and North Korea in October and may have been out to torpedo it.

Seize the city.

Motley Guechen fighters
told Reuters in the heart of Grozny that bombs had hit

(Continued from page 1)

the city centre and the northern outskirts in early morning

A Russian Interior Ministry official confirmed "pinpoint" bombing of Chechen military positions. But by noon, only the rattle of machinegun fire and shelling from tanks echoed around

the fog-shrouded city. Mr. Yeltsin's press service

said he made the decision to Yeltsin stops Grozny bombing stop bombings after meeting stop bombing stop bombin top officials in Moscow and said he had taken into account appeals from ordinary people and members of parliament who have protested against the bombing

U.S. backs Afghan bid

port for the United Nations peace initiative, Afghan

After flying to Bagram airbase 50 kilometres north of Kabul, Mr. Monjo met with President Burhanuddin Rabbani and ex-Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud. 'The meeting between'

special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri had earlier termed a more hands-on approach by the foreign community in

provincial capital Jalalabad where he was expected to meet with Mr. Rabbani's main rival, Hezb-e-Islami faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. It was understood that Mr.

CALCUTTA (AFP) - Asia has emerged as the centre of global economic activity, turning back more than five centuries of Western dominance, the head of the World Economic Forum said here Wednesday.

The centre of the world's economic gravity has shifted to Asia," said Klaus Schwab, the Harvard-educated presi-dent of the Geneva-based

"In 1960, South East Asia contributed just four per cent of the world economic output," he told an international business conference. "Today it is 25 per cent and it will rise to 40 per cent by the turn of

The Swiss economist said the "real industrial revolution of the last decade is that high quality, high-technology goods and services can be produced in any part of the

"Cheap labour adds to Asia's advantages," he added in a speech to the three-day conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry to mark the golden jubilee of India's oldest trade body.

The World Economic Forum president said Asia was "poised to claim preeminence over its counterparts" with the advent of the World

Trade Organisation. Mr. Schwab's claims were backed by Malaysian Public Works Minister Leo Moggie, who said East Asian nations had developed "self-

propelling growth.' "The annual GDP growth rate is projected at five to six per cent for the coming decade," he said. "This is higher than Western countries."

Mr. Moggie said developed nations were trying to stymie the Asian resurgence with protectionism and non-tariff,

"NAFTA and the EC are a response to the East Asian challenge." he said, referring to the North American Free Trade Agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico and the Euro-

fe

pean Community. Iraaian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati urged Asian countries Wednesday to forge closer trade ties in a bid to become an "important

centre of global power." Mr. Velayati, who is attending the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) centenary celebrations in this eastern port city, said economic cooperation could also be extended to the new central Asian nations.

Mexican president calls for unity to face crisis World tourism grew

MEXICO CITY (R) — President Ernesto Zedillo asked his countrymen Tuesday for unity and new sacrifices in Mexico's battle against economic crisis, warning of tough times ahead if the nation is to recover.

But Mexican and foreign investors gave the speech a rough reception, and stock prices tumbled.

Mr. Zedillo, whose nationally-televised speech was delayed several times by wrangling over a new economic pact between government, labour and business, said an emergency plan to face the crisis was now in

The plan, details of which were released earlier Tues-day, includes an \$18 billion international support fund for the Mexican economy, sweeping new privatisations and a clamp on wage and price rises.

Mexican stock prices fell after Mr. Zedillo finished speaking, closing down by more than three per cent. The new peso — so-called after the government shavedthree zeroes off the old currency in 1993 — closed 40 centavos lower at 5.4 pesos to the dollar even before he

began his address.
"The speech wasn't very clear, and that hit the stock market," a trader said. Others said investors did not hear the further details of the emergency plan as they had

But Mr. Zedillo avoided details in launching his appeal to Mexicans.
"We must confront this

problem by being fully aware that it is both grave and urgent, and that it will demand our utmost determination," he told Mexicans. "We must confront it in the know-

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ledge that it will mean sacrifices for us all, without excep-

Mr. Zedillo thanked business leaders for agreeing to "sacrifice their profit margins" in the latest economic pact between government, business and labour, agreed in the early hours of Tuesday after marathon talks.

He also praised the labour sector, which is widely seen as less happy with the pact, for its "patriotism and solidanty. The position of organised labour is an example for everyone."

Labour discontent with the crisis was reflected in a 20hour debate over the pact that ended as dawn broke Tuesday. The official news agency Notimex said labour was unahappy with the slight wage increase accorded them, which held up the pact's approval and forced Mr. Zedillo to postpone what was originally to have been a Monday speech.

Labour, business and gov-ernment have since 1987 held annual talks on an economic pact initially targeting inflation and in recent years aimed at spurring growth as inflation subsided.

Although Mexico's main labour unions have traditionally backed the longruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) during its 65 years in power, Nonagenarian labour leader and PRI loyalist Fidel Velazquez is expected to retire this year. sparking speculation that unions may become more independent.

Labour leaders have made no overt comments against the pact so far, however.

The emergency plan calls for wage increases of just 10 per cent, not enough to offset a 30 per cent plunge in the.

peso since the government announced a pre-Christmas devaluation.

The run on the peso was prompted by investor fears about a growing current account deficit that stood at \$28 billion at year-end political instability arising from a still-unresolved peasant rebellion in the state of Chiapas.

The government says the peso will continue to float freely in world markets as the country tries to protect its precious few remaining international reserves, which were down to \$6.14 billion in December from more than \$17 billion two months ago.

Mr. Zedillo's rescue plan calls for cutting Mexico's crushing current account deficit to \$14 billion in 1995 by slowing growth to between 1.5 and 2 per cent for the year from the previously planned four per cent. It also cuts public spending and opens

the country to greater private investment.

Under the plan, the government will auction off the radio spectrum, allow private ownership of satellites, privatise railroads, speed up the sale of state-owned container terminals in the country's four main ports and allow greater competition in telephone services.

Heavyweight support for the plan came Tuesday from both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Mr. Zedillo called on Mexicans to use the crisis as an opportunity not only for economic reform but also for further democratic change. He made no mention of Chiapas, where the government is trying to negotiate with Zapatista rebels.

Financial analysts say the

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plan to rescue the battered peso could spark a recession and widespread social problems as unemployment rises

and wages fall, but President Zedillo had no choice. "These measures are going to be very bitter," said Javier Maldonado, chief market analyst at Bancomer, Mexico's second-largest bank. These are very strong austerity measures. But there was

If Mr. Zedillo had backed away from his commitment to keep inflation in check, the analysts said, pressures would have mounted for higher wages and prices, with sastrous economic results.

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"In the short run, it's going to be very recessionary," said Luis Rubio, a prominent eco-nomic who heads the Centre for Development Research, a Mexico City think tank. "But it's the least bad programme under the circumstances."

three per cent in '94

MADRID (R) — Some 528 million people worldwide took holidays abroad in 1994, three per cent more than the previous year, the Madrid-based World Tourism Organisation said

"People were travelling more, taking more short trips as a result of economic recovery in the major generating markets," said the organisation's secretary general Antonio Enriquez

Foreign tourists spent \$321 billion while on holiday, five per cent more than the previous year, the group estimated. Germans travelled most, making more than 65 million trips abroad, followed by North Americans who made 47 million

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Private talks with those you like can bring fine results during the daytime. Set out in the evening to some new place where you can find the inspiration and the enthusiasm that you require. Study the future.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You want to make changes in the morning which are not wise, but later you can handle existing conditions much better and more efficiently.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't get dramatic in the morning some activities. Be wise.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't have a confrontation with one who is egotistical. You can pursue personal affairs and gain them easily so there is harmony in your life. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't be confrontations

with a fellow associate who does things differently from you. Be with the one you love tonight. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your mate may make it difficult for you

to see a good friend in the morning, but later you can do so with ease and have a wonderful time. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Forget that easy chair and get out in the world of activity. There is much opportunity to get ahead

at this time and be very successful LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day for expansion, so don't let dull routines deter you from this. Take care of any physical trouble which you may have.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try not to disagree with a business person and you can make more progress. After a rather difficult day, all is well tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A partner could be difficult in the morning. Apply yourself assiduously. Act promptly on some civic problem which have surfaced.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you try any tricks with a fellow associate, there is sure to be difficulties. You may not feel so well in the morning, but carry on. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You may have a few small

problems in the morning but you can quickly solve them. Be thoughtful of your mate and you both will be happy. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) An disagreement at home in the morning should be avoided. Do some entertaining at home in the evening. Avoid a troublesome person.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1995

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be more optimistic and make your life

brighter today as you benefit from and enjoy seven especially well aspected planetary conditions that exist throughout the entire day and evening. Go with the flow.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You visualise far better ways of adding to present abundance, so get yourself well organised. The evening present a situation which must be dealt with. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your ideas are fine for advance

ment, so put them in operation quickly. Show your deep devotion to the one you love and adore.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have inspired ideas which can bring you those benefits you had not counted on but deeply desire for you to have much success. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have secret yearnings

which can be gained by proper activity. Put your best foot forward and you can achieve you desires. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Discuss that idea you have with good friends. Entertain them nicely. Much care in driving is advised while

on the highway. Be charming to others. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Bring your talents to the attention of the biggest bigwig you know. You can expand where your career is concerned so you can obtain more income.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan just how to become part of some new venture. Plan a trip, and know what kind of wardrobe to take with you and be well attired.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Talk over some matter with your mate which can make the path ahead very much easier for both of you. Drive with care while on the highway.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) More cooperation with partners can bring about greater success at this time. Think along more constructive lines of endeavours.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have fine romantic ideas and can make them work out beautifully. You can strike it rich if you truly apply yourself.

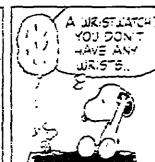
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be more willing to listen to ideas of your mate for the days ahead, you will get excellent results. Be wise in your logical thinking.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you are interested in enlarging your home or buying a new one, you can use your ideas wisely at this time. Show that you are clever.

Birthstone of January: Garnet - Rose Quartz

Peanuts





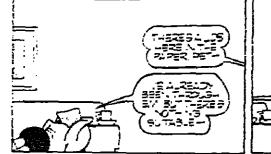


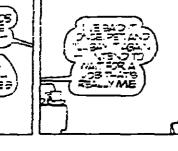




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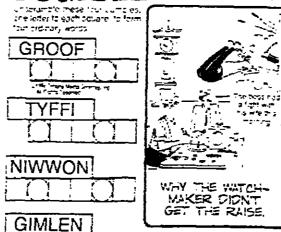




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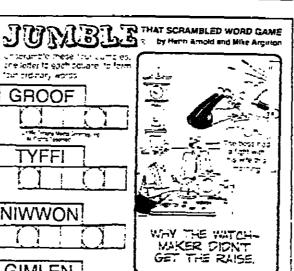




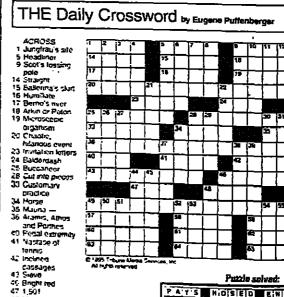


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A review of economic news from the Arabic press

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More free phone calls allowed

ਜ਼ੇਸ਼ੇ The Council of Ministers SECULATION OF THE PROPERTY OF decided to increase the number of free local phone calls from 1,000 to 1,600 a year. The free phone calls will be stretched over four periods at a rate of 400 each year, starting from January 1995. Phone charges for calls to Kuwait, Lebanon and Yemen See the contraction of the second were also reduced to JD 1.100 per minute to Kuwait and JD 0.750 per minute to both Lebanon and Yemen. Also under consideration is The second secon making Zarqa, Russeifa and Al Hashimiyeh one unit, and consider phone calls between these areas local. This would entail charging 20 fils for entan chargang every four minutes. Also to were Irbid, Al Husn and Beit Ras (Al Ra'i). be considered as one unit

* Israeli media have reported that the Israeli company AMCOR is negotiating with a Jordanian company to set up a joint solar heaters factory at a cost between \$5 to \$10 million (Al Aswaq).

★★ Telecommunications Corporation Director-General Walid Dweik said that the call back telephone arrangement being promoted by companies and individuals on behalf of foreign communication firms was illegal and forbidden. Anyone involved in these banned activities will have his/her telephone disconnected (Al Dustour).

☆☆ Jamal Bdour, directorgeneral of the Cooperative Organisation, has presented his resignation to the Council of Ministers. The resignation is reportedly attributed to financial strains, so big that the organisation is unable to pay salaries to employees (Al Dustour).

> * The Arab Bank Ltd. attracted JD 100 million in deposits in the occupied territories since it resumed operations there about 40 days ago. According to Arab Bank Chairman Abdul Majeed Shoman, the Jordanian dinar is widely used in the West Bank while the dollar is more dominant in Gaza (Al Ra'i).

> * Dordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Company started construction on a JD 7 million project to manufacture coated and non-coated duplex paper boards. Trial production of this type of carton is expected to begin in June 1995. The capacity of this project will be about 30,000 tonnes, to cover local market needs as well as a large portion of the needs of neighbouring markets (Al Ra'i).

* Jordan Bar Association President Kamal Naser reminds all businesses of the law that requires local and foreign establishments to appoint a lawyer or legal advisor from among lawyers registered at the association. Failing to adhere to this requirement would result in ID 2 fine per day after a period of 3-month since starting opcrations. The association is providing a discount until Jan. 31, 1995, for early settlement dues (Al Dustour).

> ** The Income Tax Department is distributing 1994 selfassessment tax forms. Taxpayers who submit their forms during January 1995 will be entitled to a six per cent discount of the tax amount (Al Aswaq).

* According to Tayseer Abdul Jaber, a former minister and ex-director of ESCWA (Economic and Social Commission for West Asia), Jordan's anemployment stands at 18 per cent, inflation of foodstuff prices at 10 per cent and poverty stands at 30 per cent. He said in a lecture at the Amenan Rotary Club that the United Nations report estimated the per capita income in Jordan at \$4,000 a year and not at \$1,200 as it is commonly known because the size of the Kingdom's economy is much bigger than the \$5 billion declared figure (Al Ra'l).

Israel to spend \$2.5b on defence industry

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM dustries, which has submitted (R) - Israel's ailing defence industry will cost the govern-ment \$2.5 billion over a fouryear period, the director general of the finance ministry. David Brodett, said Wednesday.

Mr. Brodett also said that within the next 18 months the industry will have to slash a further 5,000 to 6,000 jobs. Four years ago the industry employed 40,000 workers.

The figure now stands at 24,000 and the government has set a target of 18,000-19,000. The government's rescue plan for the three defence

companies will cost \$2.5 billion from 1993-96 including some funds that have already been disbursed. The government has committed \$525 million to Israel Aircraft industries' recovery

programme as well as \$400

million to Israel Military In-

a request for an additional \$400 million.

Mr. Rafael, Israel's third military contractor, will receive \$650 million in aid. Israel's military industry has been hit by a decline in defence spending worldwide

as well as by a cancellation of orders by the Israeli army. Israel Military Industries' situation is particularly troublesome. "Earlier this week we presented to the prime minister a very gloomy picture about the functioning of this company," Mr. Brodett said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has given management and workers at Israel Military Industries an ultimatum. Either they agree by next week on severance payments and the number of workers to be sacked or the government will appoint a receiver, Mr.

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Swiss Franc	1,3090	1.3134**
French Franc	5.3370	5.362541
Japanese Yen	99.75	100-11
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Sterling Pound	5.61	6.37	6.93	7.75
Druische Mark	4.87	4.93	5.18	5.62
Swite Franc	3.75	4.06	4.25	4.56
French Transc	5.68	6.06	6.50	6.93
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.18	2.25	2.43
European Corrency Unit	6.00	4.57	6,75	7.18

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Lebanese Lien	0.047600	0.042965
Saudi Riyei	0.1862	0.1885
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UAE Dirban	0.1699	0.1921
Greek Drackses*	0.2665	0.5145
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Date: 3/1/1995

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.4046/56 1.5592/02 1.7472/82 1.3156/66 32.04/08 5.3735/85 1626.6/7.6 101.17*[*27 7.4475/75 £.8240/90

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One sterling One ounce of gold \$378.05/378.35

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Canadian dollar

Deutschemarks

Dutch guilders

Belgian francs

French francs

Japanese yen

Danish crowns

Swedish crowns

Norwegian crowns

Italian lire

Swiss francs

Dubai free zone to target high-tech industry

DUBAI (R) — Jebel Ali free zone hopes to attract more manufacturing and hightechnology industries in 1995, zone chief Sultan Bin Sulayem said Wednesday.
The free zone in Dubai,

the second largest emirate and commercial hub of seven in the united Arab Emirates (UAE), has already attracted giants like Japan's Sony and Aiwa electronics corporations, Nissan cars, Acer com-puters and Shell chemicals.

"We are targeting high-tech companies like electronics and computers," Mr. Sulayem, the zone chairman and managing director, told Reuters in an interview.

He said he expected the number of firms operating in the zone to rise by almost 40 per cent this year thanks to growing interest from abroad. "We feel we could reach 1,000 by the end of the year," he said.

There are now 725 companies representing billions of dirhams worth of capital investment in the free zone, set up in 1985 as part of the Dubai government's efforts to diversify the economy and lessen dependence on oil.

It offers special incentives to investors, including freedom from import duties and corporate and personal in-come taxes, 100 per cent foreign ownership and full repatriation of profits.

Mr. Sulayem said Jebel Ali's main competition was

from the Far East but the zone had managed to entice both Sony and Aiwa to move their Middle East distribution hubs Singapore to Dubai.

Although manufacturers who used advanced technology were top of the list of companies targeted by the free zone, Mr. Sulayem said distributers still had a very important role to play.

"Distribution is still a major thing. About 65 per cent of the registered companies are involved in distribution," he pointed out.

The Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and North and East Africa were the most important markets for zonebased companies, he said, but the former Soviet Union

and South Africa were fast becoming strong buyers.

"Last year about \$1.4 billion (worth of goods) were exported to the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) from the UAE. Its importance here is growing rapidly," he said.
To attract more investors,

Mr. Sulayem said improvements were planned-

"We are updating our facilities and constantly comparing ourselves with other free zones. We are investing in high-tech ourselves, building new warehouses and factory units, labour accommodation and roads," he explained.

He declined to say how much would be spent on these developments in 1995.

but said around 300 million dirhams (\$82 million) went towards upgrading the free zone and facilities at Dubai Ports Authority (DPA), of which he is also chairman, in 1994. The two major ports managed by the DPA are Jebel Ali and Port Rashid. Mr. Sulayem said in the

first 11 of the last year the DPA handled over 23 million tonnes of cargo - up six per cent on the same period in 1993. He forecast a further increase to 27 million tonnes

for 1995 as a whole. Between January and November 1994 the DPA handled 1.7 million standard container units. This figure was expected to top two million in 1995, he said.

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THE HOUSING BANK	2700	15363		5.690
ORDAN KUWAIT BANK	630	1883	2.990	2.990
ORDAN GULF BANK	12400	19881	1.600	
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GRAND TOTAL

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL HARKET VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET

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Saatchi founder makes embittered final exit

LONDON (R) — Maurice Saatchi, cofounder and deposed chairman of British advertising giant Saatchi Saatchi Co. PLC, finally served all links with it Tuesday, saying in his view the company had been taken

Mr. Saatchi had been offered a new, lesser, role after being ousted as chairman in a shareholder revolt led by David Herro of Chicago-based fund manager Harris Associates late last year.

But in a terse, bitterly ironic memo to Saatchi Company Secretary Graham Howell, Mr. Saatchi, who had until Tuesday to make up his mind, said: "Please inform Mr. Herro that I do not accept his offer. It was kind of him to consider me for the position."

taking that as an outright rejection by Mr. Saatchi, Mr. Howell said: "Yes."

the memo in a letter to staff addressed "to everyone at Saatchi" in which he said he had rejected the offer because in his view the company had been taken over.

"No bid for the company taken. But make no mistake,

"By threatening the directors with an extraordinary general meeting... they have given the directors their orders: Take your chairman into a corner and shoot him — we don't want the fuss of a

public trial'." gained force last autumn on anger over a share option scheme for Mr. Saatchi that could have netted him up to £5 million (\$7.8 million) over three years.

Asked if the agency was

Mr. Saatchi expanded on

has been announced. No offer has been made. No premium has been paid. No shareholder vote has been Saatchi Saatchi is under new control," he wrote in the letter.

by Mr. Herro and other shareholders with stakes totalling some 32 per cent of the agency had been "a simple, if crude, method of controlling the company."

The shareholder revolt

After his resignation, the agency offered him the largely honourary role of joint president along with his brother and cofounder Charles, and the chairmanship of the Saatchi Saatchi advertising worldwide operating subsidiary. His rejection of the new

role throws up the spectre of some Saatchi clients taking their business elsewhere. One of them, U.S. confec-

tionery giant Mars, confirmed in December it was reviewing its huge worldwide advertising account with Saatchi, while another, British Airways PLC, is also reported to have lobbied in favour of Maurice Saatchi.

Speculation that Mr. Saatchi will set up his own rival agency will now inevitably increase. Media analysts say, however, that financing any such venture might prove difficult, while contractual restrictions might prevent him from doing so at all.

So for Saatchi Saatchi, formed by the brothers in 1970 and the leaders of the British advertising world in the 1980s, it will now seek to change the name of its parent company — one of the other demands of the Harris-led rebels.

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1. PURCHASING OFFICERS (6 posts: Grades 11-13)

(a) Monthly take-home pay ranging from about JD340 up plus Dependency allowance, plus Provident Fund from about JD.80 per month payable at end of service; as well

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(b) Incumbents will be responsible for the international procurement of supplies and equipment, coordinating with various UNRWA offices in English (main working

language).
(c) Essential & highly desirable qualifications:
University degree in Public or Business Administration;
knowledge of international shipping regulations; packing systems and procurement technology; five years experi-ence in a large purchasing activity; and working knowledge of computerised purchasing and material manage-ment systems. Fluency in English and Arabic is essential.

2. SENIOR SUPPLY OFFICER (BASIC COMMOD-

(a) Grade 18: Monthly take-home pay starting about JD.680 plus Dependency allowance, plus Provident Fund of about JD.165 per month payable at end of service; as well as compulsory medical insurance.

(b) Is responsible for the procurement of all basic commodities required for UNRWA programmes; also is responsible for all insurance coverage and claims processing; controls stocks and logistics of basic commodities to

meet Agency programme needs.
(c) Essential & highly desirable qualifications: University degree in Business Administration or related subject; training in supply management, international shipping marine, vehicle and property insurance, accounting and related EDP applications. 8 years' experience in the application of the academic knowledge acquired; demonstrated ability to operate PCs and standard Agency software in the context of supply operations. Very good knowledge of English & Arabic is essential.

3. SUPPLY OFFICERS (3 posts: Grades 13 & 15 in Basic Commodities & Insurance, and another in General

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(b) Assisting the respective Senior Supply Officers with the procurement, shipping, storing and insuring of supplies and commodities required in Agency programmes; co-ordinations, exercising procurement progress control and monitoring cyclic purchasing activities.

(c) Essential & highly desirable qualifications: University degree in commerce, business administration or related discipline; six years' experience in application of this academic knowledge; demonstrated ability to operate PC and standard software for supply operations; good knowledge of shipping and commercial law and practice, including documentation, and port operations. Fluency in English and Arabic is essential.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (Supply Division) (a) Grade 14: Monthly take-home pay starting about JD 470 plus Dependency allowance, plus Provident Fund of about JD.110 per month payable at end of service; as well as compulsory medical insurance.

Supply Division such as budgeting, expenditure monitoring including the efficient use of communication services, assists with Supply personnel matters, maintains the register & locator cards of equipment at UHB (Amman), arranges for testing of commodities (quality control).

(c) Essential & highly desirable qualifications:

University degree in Business Administration or related discipline; five years' experience in administrative post. of which at least two in supply-related work. Demonstrated ability to operate PC and standard supply software. Very good knowledge of English and Arabic is essential.

5. REALITY DATA BASE ADMINISTRATOR: (a) Grade 14: Monthly take-home pay starting about JD.470 plus Dependency allowance, plus Provident Fund of about JD.110 per month payable at end of service; as

well as compulsory medical insurance. (b) Responsible for the maintenance of all support files in the data base (including e.g. catalogues, lists of suppliers) and technical information (such as global & security settings, user authorization tables); provides on-the-job PC training of supply staff and supports the

(c) Essential & highly desirable qualifications: University degree in computer science or a related subject. 5 years' experience in applying this academic knowledge, three years' experience on PC and Novell LAN at user level, including basic hardware operation; knowledge of data base management concepts; demonstrated ability to operate PCs and knowledge of standard supply software.

Very good knowledge of English and Arabic is essential. 6. INSURANCE ASSISTANT (Basic Commod-

(a) Grade 11: Monthly take-home pay starting about JD.340 plus Dependency allowance, plus Provident Fund of about JD.80 per month payable at end of service; as

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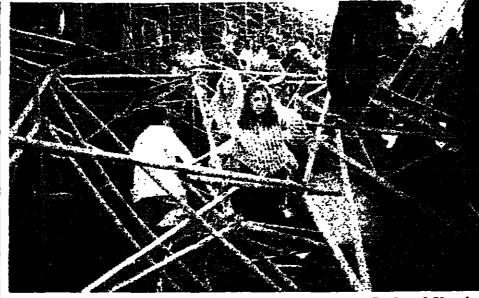
(b) Assists with marine, vehicle, fire and other insurance required by the Agency; processes and follows up on claims from insurances; collects, verifies, processes data related to insurance matters including entry into and verification of PC records; monitors related shipping documentation; generally, performs all assisting functions for effective insurance coverage of Agency property of all kinds.

(c) Essential and highly desirable qualifications: University degree in Business Administration or related discipline; course work in insurance. At least five years experience in supply operations of which at least three years must have been insurance claims processing at responsible level; demonstrated ability to operate PCs and standard software and applications as used in the Agency. Very good knowledge of English and Arabic is essential.

Applications must be in English and accompanied by a duly completed United Nations Personal Ristory Form (available) from UNRWA or U.N. offices), must mention the post for which the application is made, and should be submitted by close of business (15:00 hrs) on Thursday, 26 January 1995 to:

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UNRWA welcomes applications equally from men and women. Full consideration will be given to disabled candidates whose disability does not mitigate the effective performance of the duties of the job. Priority will be given to fully qualified Palestinians.



File photo dated May 5, 1992 shows people evacuating the Furiani Stadium in Bastia a few minutes after the stands collapsed prior to the

soccer match between Bastia and Olympique Marseille (AFP photo)

Football tragedy trial opens

BASTIA, France (AFP) -Security was tight Wednes-day as the trial of 12 businessmen and officials charged over a football stadium disas-ter which killed 17 people and left up to 2,000 injured came to court on the French island of Corsica.

One of the key defendants, club president and mayor Jean-Francois Filippi, was murdered last week.

Directors of the firm which put up the temporary stand which collapsed, local officials who issued a safety certificate and French football federation officials face charges of manslaughter and wounding. iuries.

The stand was subsequently found to have been erected hastily to boost capacity at the Furiani stadium from 8,000 to 18,000 for a Cup tie between Bastia and France's most famous club, Olympique Marseille, on May 5,

When it collapsed just before the kick-off 3,500 people were sent crashing to the ground amid a tangle of scaf-

folding. Fifteen people died that afternoon and another two died later of their in-

The three week trial was due to begin amid high security. The court house will undergo searches for bombs while the defendants will appear behind bullet-proof

The prosecution has alleged a web of negligence, falsification and ineptitude while football officials are said to have turned a blind eye to the whole thing.

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Office at the University Campus in Mafrag, or at the University Liaison Office within the premises of the Royal Sci-

entific Society, during the office hours from 8:00 am. - 5:00

(9) A certified copy of pages 1-7 of the passport, and a cer-

(11) A document that proves that he is free from any com-

The deadline for the submission of application shall be on

Applications shall be treated under strict confidentiality and

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mitment to any private or public institution.

p.m. to fill in the relevant application form.

should be submitted together with the form:

(1) A certified copy of the Bachelor's transcript.

(2) A certified copy of the Bachelor's degree.

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tified copy of the family identify card.

(10) A copy of all published/unpublished research.

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Appeal date set for Seles' attacker

HAMBURG (AFP) Monica Seles's attacker Gunther Parche goes before the appeal court on March 31, his lawyer Otmar Kury said Wednes-

The prosecution had appealed against his twoyear suspended sentence for stabbing the tennis star in the back in Hamburg in April, 1993. panago: He was condemned for

wounding after the Octo-ber, 1993, trial was told he suffered from diminished responsibility although Seles' lawyers had filed a complaint for attempted

Seles, who has not played since the attack, faces a six million dollar claim by her clothing sponsors FILA for failing to fulfill her obligations.

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Modahl appeals against ban

LONDON (R) — British runner Diane Modahl, banned from athletics for four years following a positive drugs test, has formally. appealed against the deti-

Modahl, the 1990 Commonwealth 800 metres champion, tested positive for exessive levels of testosterone at a meeting in Lisbon on June 18. She is the first British

woman to fail a drags test.
On Wednesday Modahl's solicitor Tony Morton-Hooper said a letter was sent to the British Athletic Federation (BAF) late last month appealing the ban. He said the BAF had con-

firmed receipt of the letter but had not yet set a date for a hearing by its independent appeal panel.

Vatanen drums up a desert storm

QUARZAZATE, Morocco (R) — Finnish veteran Ari Vatanen drummed up a desert storm Tuesday as he took over the lead in the Paris-Dakar Rally with a perfect exhibition of speed and skill on the third leg.

The Citroen driver showed no signs that two years of absence from the event had harmed the finely-honed artistry on toughdesert terrain which have already earned him four previous Paris-Dakar titles.

Starting the day in fifth place overall. Vatanen put his car through its paces over 405 kms of timed stages on the stony route from El Rachidia which also included the first sand dunes of the

rally.
Ousting France's Bruno
Saby from first place, the
Firm took a lead of more than seven minutes over his Citroen teammate Pierre Lar-

tigue, another Frenchman.
"I'm very glad because this
was the old Vatanen of the old Paris-Dakars who was driving today," the new rally

It was a good day for Cit-roen with Vatanen's fellow-finn Timo Salonen taking over third place as well as pushing Saby's Mitsubishi down to fourth.

Saby lost valuable time when he got lost for a while the cranes

In the motorcycles section, Heinz Kinigadner of Austria, riding a KTM, extended his lead and now enjoys a 10minute cushion over Spanish Cagiva rider Jordi Arcarons.

Elite Chinese swimmers walk out on Ma Junren

BELIING (R) — Double threatened to pull their children out of the sport Junxia has walked out of Ma Jumen's training camp along with 15 other elite Chinese women athletes because the coach has pocketed most of their prize money, the Beijing Youth Daily said Wednesday.

The Youth Daily said the

athletes had left Ma's training centre in the northeastern port city of Dalian last month after talks broke down over how to divide their winnings. According to the Youth Daily, world 1,500 metres record holder and world 3,000 metres champion Qu Yunxia has not left the camp. But Zhang Linli, who finished second to Qu at the 1993

Stuttgart world championships, was named as one of the 16 deserters. The report appears to sig-nal the end of the controver-

sial Ma's career as the newspaper added that Chinese sports officials said the team would not be disbanded but would continue to train under a new coach, who had yet to be chosen.
"The Ma family army is

not a single person's wealth. It belongs to the party, the province and the country. We should all care and love it," the newspaper quoted Gu Jinchi, party secretary of northeastern Liaoning Pro-

vince, as saying.
It added that the officials had decided to rename the team "Liaoning women middle and long-distance running

team." The newspaper said the

altogether if they were returned to Ma's jurisdiction.

"Because Ma Junren is sick and needs to be in hospital so the Ma family army has been brought to Shenyang," team manager Sun Yusen told the

newspaper. When confronted by a reporter from the newspaper. Ma avoided the issue and said he had orders from his superiors to recuperate in hospital. Ma was taken to hospital

نيا شهيب درمه است

after he was burt in a car crash in Liaoning late last month when his car struck a highway barrier while he was returning from his father's funeral in Anshan to the training centre.

The Youth daily said another reason for the desertion of Ma's runners was his "unreasonable" way of man-

aging his team.
"(Ma) made excessive demands, was overcritical and cruel" towards his runners, it

The Liberation Daily said recently that Ma owned three Mercedes Benzes and had spent seven million yuan (\$824,000) on his training centre out of total winnings of his athletes of 10 million yuan (\$1.18 million).

It said the cars were prizes given to three of his athletes at the Stuttgart World Cham-

pionships.
The Liberation Daily quoted Wang as saying she had received 170,000 yuan (\$20,000), US\$60,300 and HK\$1,000 (US\$128) from Ma and that Qu had received about 65,000 yuan (\$7,650):

...

.....



Great Britain's Mark Foster gasps for breath after competing in the 50-metre freestyle (AFP photo)

German swimmers dominate World Cup

Germany's swimmers, led by minute withdrawal.

200m freestyle record-holder, Michelle Smith of Ireland Franziska Van Almsick, dominated the field for the second day at the World Cup meeting Wednesday.

Van Almsick powered to victory in the 100m and 400m freestyle events, after wins in the 200m and 50m freestyle races on the first day. Compatriot Sandra Volker

easily captured gold in the 100m backstroke, but her performance fell short of expectations following her world record-breaking swim in the 50m backstroke event

Tuesday.

The German men also left few medal opportunities for the competition, with Jirka Letzin sweeping to victory in the 50m and 200m events, adding to his 100m backstroke title Wednesday.

But despite the strong showing by the German contingent, winning 22 of 34 events, Ireland, Britain and Belgium all had good individual performances to add spice to a competition over-

HONG KONG (AFP) — shadowed by China's last-

stormed to victory in the 200m butterfly and picked up a silver in the 100m individual medley to add to the two golds she won in the 100m butterfly and 200m individual medley on the first day.

Briton Mark Foster, who has been nursing a back injury, still managed to pick up two titles, with wins in the 50m freestyle and butterfly

Belgium's Brigitte Becue also struck gold twice, winning both the 100m and 200m breastroke events.

China's absence at the meet, officially because of visa problems and a conflicting training schedule, fol-lowed failed drug tests by seven Chinese swimmers at the Asian Games in Hiroshima last October.

Hong Kong was the first of seven meetings in the World Cup. It moves on to Finland, France, Britain, Germany, Italy and Sweden.

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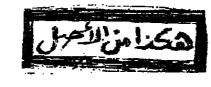
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hess champion Garry Kasparov concentrates hampionship (AFP photo)

Chess rebels plan 996 reunification match

(ANILA (AFP) — The him. Vorld Chess Federation FIDE) is close to coaxing bel champion Garry asparov back into the old, and a reunification atch for the world chamionship is likely in 1996, IDE Chief Florencio ampomanes said Vednesday.

The Filipino sportsman on an unprecedented with term of the federaon in Moscow last month rith the support of his ing-time Russian nemesis asparov, and said they ave since signed joint delarations towards unity ad cooperation.

Then-reigning FIDE orld champion Kasparov nd his challenger, Nigel hort of Britain, broke way from the federation nd formed their rebel tofessional Chess Assoation (PCA) following a pute over prize money id venue in early 1993. Kasparov subsequently on the rebel chamonship while FIDE ganised an alternate orld championship from nong the two losing mifinalists in the last ndidates' cycle. Former orld champion Anatoly arpov beat Dutch randmaster lan Timman id was declared FIDE orld champion.

Campomanes said Kastrov and his fellow rebek ave apparently come ound "to the realisation at they cannot live with 11 FIDE," and tha vhen a prodigal son rerns, you must accept

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He said he and Kasparov were proposing that "to end the current confusion among chess fans, sponsors and media, a reunification match will be organised in 1996" after the end of the current eliminations for the next PCA and FIDE world championships.

He said they also proposed that a joint commission be formed "on an equal representation basis" to organise the reunification rules by May

Under the proposed plan, the PCA will remain. "in its capacity as a com-mercial entity" which will 'manage commercial events and will guarantee the annual payment of an agreed contribution to FIDE's expenses.

Campomanes said FIDE would also restructure its own setup "to make it commercially more efficient."

The FIDE chief said the two organisations are planning to organise tournaments on the same line as the ATP tour of professional tennis, and evaluered hope that chess as an Olympic sport.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Juan Antonio Samaranch attended the last Chess Olympiad in Moscow last month, and Campomanes expressed hope that chess would be included as an "exhibition event" in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

He said it would probably be "too much to say" that chess would become an Olympic event in Sydney in 2000, but commented that "the terrain is promising.'

Campomanes said he foresaw top chess players eventually earning prize money comparable to those won by top tennis pros on the ATP tour.

He also dismissed suggestions that powerful chess computers would eventually topple the world's top human players. "Do not fear the machine, use it," he said.

He said he had discussed with Kasparov the formation of a body to improve the current system of rating chess players, saying that the current ELO system "needs improvement due both to the advances in computer technology and to errors light."

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ELEGANCE OF A MAN

Jordan Soccer League

Competition heats up with 5 weeks remaining

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN -- Thirty matches remain before the Kingdom's most prestigious soc-cer title — the First Divi-sion Championship — is decided. However, unlike other seasons, at least three teams are still in contention, and all results will be crucial in deciding the champion and relegation-

threatened last four. During the past two weeks, leaders Al Hussein fell to third placed after losing 2-1 to Kufrsoum and 2-0 to Al Ramtha. Meanwhile, Al Wihdat took the lead after two easy victories: 6-0 over Al Jeel and 1-0 over newcomers Shabab Al

Al Wihdat who last won the title in 1991 remained the only un-beaten team and improved their scoring record to 24-3.
Al Ramtha are now two

points behind Al Wihdat, and have only lost one match. Meanwhile, Al Faisali, who won the title in 1992 and 1993, have been unable to improve their standing after three draws and a surprise 1-0 loss to Al Arabi in the second round. Whether Al Hussein win their first ever 1st division crown or Al Wihdat secure their only title of the year depends on how well they fare in the upcoming

Al Wibdat have the toughest matches against Al Ramtha and Al Hussein, while Al Faisali's remaining matches are easier except for their clash with Al Hussein.

That however does not necessarily mean that the leaders have already secured their matches against the rest of the teams.

The top three teams' matches against current fifth placed Al Ahli may well be a determining factor. Other surprise may also pop up any time.

Like the battle at the top

of the 12-team competition, another fierce challenge is under way at the other end of the standings. For the second consecutive year, four teams will be

While the last three - Al Jeel. Al Karmel and Sha-

releated.

have already surrendered and seem destined to drop back to the second division the identity of the fourth

team is not yet known.

Al Qadissieh and Al Arabi are nearest the relegation zone, and Kuftsoum, the only newcomer not among the last four, will have to maintain their results to keep a halfway standing and stick among

the top group.

Though Al Jazireh have had an inconsistent form in the second round, they are still in sixth place, and Al Ahli have scored three consecutive wins that lifted them up to fifth.

The top scorers are Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib (Al Ramtha), Yousef Obeidat (Kufrsoum), Aref Hussein (Al Hussein), Jiryes Tadros (Al Faisali), Jihad Abdul Mun'em (Al Wihdat).

Top teams eye season's remaining titles The top four teams have

their eyes set on the two remaining soccer crowns of the season — the Jordan Cup and the first division. Titleholders Al Faisali

should collect two more

points at home to uninspiring

Struggling Zambia have re-

called several professionals,

including inspirational cap-

tain Kalusha Bwalya from

Mexico, for a Group 5 game

in Mauritius that will evoke

Mauritania.

one title — the 1994 Cup Winners' Cup. Al Hussein captured their first ever soccer crown when they overcame Al Faisali to win the 1994 Soccer Federation Shield. After falling from first to

tion after being knocked out by Al Faisali in the Jordan Cup semifinals Monday.

Al Wihdat's last major

title was the 1992 Cup Winners' Cup while Al Ramtha's last major title was the 1993 Federation Shield.

third place, they enter the Schedule of 18th week:

Jeel vs. Arabi 2:30 p.m. Petra Stadium Karmel vs. Ramtha 2:30 p.m. Al Hassan Stadium Shabab Al Hussein vs. Al Jazireh 2:30 p.m. Amman

Wihdat vs. Kufrsoum 2:30 p.m. Amman Stadium Faisali vs. Qadissieh 2:30 p.m. Petra Stadium Ahli vs. Hussein 2:30 p.m. Al Hassan Stadium Standings after 17th week

- Detting	semants mu		_	1/41		WELL	
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihdat	17	12	5	_	24	3	29
Ramtha	17	11	5	1	35	10	27
Hussein	17	12	2	3	42	18	26
Faisali	17	8	7	2	28	9	23
Ahli	17	7	5	5	23	20	19
Jazireb	17	7	5	5	21	18	19
Kufrsoum	17	8	1	8	27	28	17
Arabi	17	5	5	7	18	26	15
Qadissieh	17	4	6	7	18	22	14
Shabab Al Hussein	17	1	4	12	17	37	6
Karmei	17	1	4	12	12	41	š

empt to cross bridge seeding, play in Dakar while surprise pacesetters Togo

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Egypt attempt to bridge a 26-year gap when they visit Algeria this weekend for the most appealing qualifying tie in a 13-match African Na-

tion's Cup programme.
The Pharaohs' only success over their traditional rivals came three decades ago in Cairo, and the Algerians have since triumphed three times in the final stages. Algeria won a 1980 semi-

final on penalties, succeeded 3-1 in a third-place play-off four years later, and also had two goals to spare when they met in the first round five years' ago. Three-time champions

Egypt go to Algeria as Group 4 leaders with five points from a goalless draw in Sudan and decisive home victories over Tanzania and Ethiopia. But any illusions that the Dutch-coached team is poised to conquer Africa again were shattered this week in Tunisia, where they

to lose a warm-up game.
Politically-troubled Algeria have slipped considerably since winning the 1990 African title, with the expected

conceded two first-half goals

revival under recently appointed coach Rabah Madjer not materialising.

Madjer, a former African Footballer of the Year, has auided his country to respectful draws in Ethiopia and Uganda, but the failure in defeat Sudan at home triggered strong criticism.

Improving Tanzania lie second and could take at least one point back from Ethiopia, who made drastic following a heavy loss to Uganda only to suffer greater humiliation in Egypt.

nainful memories. The national team won a Nations' Cup qualifier on the Indian Ocean island a couple of days before 18 of them

SOCCER AFRICAN

Malawi, performing above expectations in Group 1, visit Cameroon, who suffered a sensational defeat in Lesotho last November and lost leading official Roger Milla to

Indonesia this week. Zaire, without a win in three matches, host Lesotho, whose coach Style Phumo is remarkably confident considering the seven-goal hiding they received in Kinshasa two years's ago.

Senegal and Tunisia, battling to justify their Group 2 perished when their plane plunged into the sea off Gabon in April 1993.

Although Botswana are bottom of the Group 6 standings, they can expect no mercy from Mali, who were upset by Namibia on an previous journey to southern African.

Angola host Mozambique in a clash of Portuguesespeaking countries and Namibia make the long journey north to Guinea, a team hungry for points after two secutive away losses.

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POSITION AVAILABLE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The Friends of Archaeology Society seeks a director for its head office Amman. This is a full-time position (40 hours a week) that includes work on some Fridays when there are fieldtrips. The successful applicant must be Jordanian nationality, fluent in Arabic and English and able to write in both languages. A background in archaeology, history or related fields is an advantage but is not

The iob involves considerable amount of dealing with people (members and others), regular coordination with the board and the subcommittees of the society, and some travel in Jordan. Applicants must have basic computer skills and be able to type. Interested applicants should submit

their C.V. to the Friends of Archaeology office, near the Fourth Circle of Japai Amman, Defore January FOA office phone is 696682.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN JORDAN

Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC), is a governmental entity which owns an investment portfolio covering a variety of Jordanian industries,

As part of JIC's strategy to divest and allow the private sector to assume a wider ownership in Jordanian Public Shareholding Companies, JIC is offering to sell all or part of its shares in the "Jordan Hotels & Tourism Company". The Company owns Hotel Intercontinental Jordan and is listed on the Amman Financial Market.

The Hotel is operated and managed by Intercontinental Hotels Corporation.

JIC owns 3,216,095 shares of the authorised and paid up 3,668,202 Company's shares, each share having a par value of JD 1.0.

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1 Surrey Street

: 816915 Fax Tel : 816181 Amman - Jordan

USA Tel. 212-708 4000 London WC2R 2PS England Tel. 71-438 3000

- Bids must be in writing and should be submitted in sealed envelope, and must be received not later than 26th JAN 1995, the closing date, to JIC (address).

Bids must remain valid for two months after the closing date. Minimum Bid accepted is 500,000 shares. Taking into consideration the maximum share price was (9.4) J.D on April 93. and (6.5) J.D on June 94.

- Bids must be accompanied by a bid bond of 5% of the bid value in the form of an irrevocable bank guarantee, valid for .wo 1. onths after the closing date. The bond must be payable on first demand.

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AT	Raghda & Farooq Al Fishawi en 2AGHBAT Shows: 12:36, 3:39, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Julia Roberts/Nick Noite in Love Trouble Shows 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 The Lion King Shows: 10:30, 12:30, 3:30, 5:00	CONCORD '1' Sylvester Stallone/Sharon Stone in THE SPECIALIST Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' SLEEP WALKER Shows: 3:15, 5:15	will soon present: Mousa Hijazin (SUM'AA) In the satirical political comedy: Hi Citizen	Presents Abu Awwad in the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam. Daily at 8:30 Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday. In English Sunday January 15, 1995				

Majali defends government stand in Chechen crisis

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Wednesday that Jordan had "seriously and in practical terms" stood by the Chechen people in their conflict with

Responding to what he cal-led "provocative statements" by Deputy Toujan Faisal, a Circassian, Dr. Majali said Jordan had conveyed its position to Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Victor Posovalyuk during his recent visit to the Kingdom and has instructed the Ministry of Health and the Hashemite Charity Organisation to send humanitarian aid to Chechenya.

"'I cannot send the Arab army (to Chechenya). One should recognise the limitations of one's power," said

In the fiery way that has come to characterise her performance in the House, Ms. Faisal had accused the government of adopting a position on Chechenva that conflicts with that of the people as expressed by their repre-

Accusing the government of promising the Russian Federation to prevent Jordan's Chechen and Circassian population from helping the people in Chechenya, Ms. Faisal alleged that the government asked Russia to oppress the Chechens but not in so violent a way.

Ms. Faisal's accusations did not go down well with the rapporteur of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Jamal Saraireh, who stressed that the House has issued a clear statement in support of the Chechen people's right to self-determination and that the government's position was similar to that of the lawmakers.

"We cannot deny the role

of the government and the leadership" in the Chechen crisis, said Mr. Saraireh before the House referred to his committee the issue of how to deal with the conflict.

The House earlier voted down a proposal by Islamic Action Front Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant to form a pecial committee on the crisis in Chechenya in a show of solidarity with the Muslim people in the Caucasus re-

Deputies applied to the proposal said the House's position on Chechenya should be articulated by the Foreign Affairs Committee in whose meetings deputies with proposals on how to deal with the conflict can participate.

Up to 50,000 Jordanians

are estimated to be of Chechen and Circassian origins and they are represented three depaties in the

Dr. Majali said the government had given permission to collect donations to their brethren in Chechenya and the community has organised rallies to condemn the Russian attack on Chechenya.

During the session, the House listened to ministers' responses to questions raised by deputies. At the request of Deputy Theeb Abdullah, Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh said he would refer to the general prosecutor the case of the glass factory in Ma'an which was shut down after facing many financial

and administrative problems. The House also approved the draft amended law on the Institute of Public Administration and the draft amended law on the notary public as presented by the government. It also approved the draft amended law on public administration after introducing few atnendments to it and rejecting those made by the Upper House of Par-liament.

medicine, the newspaper said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Iran is producing large quantities of

chemical and biological weapons that are a serious threat to

Israel, senior officials told a newspaper Wednesday. "Iran

is developing its capacity to produce chemical weapons and

is stockpiling large quantities," according to one official quoted by the Yediot Aharonot newspaper. Iran is also

trying to improve its Nodong surface-to-surface missiles

from North Korea which have a range of 1,000 kilometres

and can hit Israel, said the officials who were not named.

They said that since 1984 the Iranians have been involved

in "the industrial production of chemical weapons" and are

buying the raw materials to make them from foreign

countries. Iran has also launched a project to develop

biological weapons at plants claimed to be producing

Koran reciters win gold coins in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — A Portuguese and a Thai were among

Koran reciters, memorisers and interpreters who won gold coins in a five-day competition that ended in Jehran on

Wednesday, Iranian Television said. It showed the winners receiving their prizes from Iranian officials and shaking

hands with Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene

who spoke on the importance of promoting the study of the Holy Book. Top prizes were 35 Azadi gold coins worth \$100 each. The leading winners, from among dozens of

Iranian and 69 foreign competitors, were from Portugal, Thailand, Bangladesh, Yemen, Syria, Morocco and Iran.

the television said. All the winners shown on television

were men. The report did not say if women also competed.

ANKARA (R) - A Danish woman was fighting for her

life in a Turkish hospital on Wednesday, three days after

she was accidentally shot by a drunken policeman at a New

Year's party in the western resort of Cestne. Police in the

nearby city of Izmir said by telephone that the woman.

identified as Karen Studnitz Andersen, 19, was badly

wounded when the officer began waving his gun, apparently in jest, and it went off. Officials at the hospital in Izmir

said Ms. Andersen's condition was very grave and appeared to be deteriorating. She arrived in Purkey last week to celebrate the New Year holiday with her Turkish

boyfriend, they said. The officer involved in the shooting

'Germans trained, supplied Qadhafi guards'

BONN (AFP) - An ex-paratroop officer of the German

army taught the special guards of Libyan leader Moznana

Qadhafi killer-commando skills with the approval of the

German authorities, according to Stem magazine out

Thursday. Hans Dieter Raethien, a former major, told the weekly that from 1979 until 1983, in response to a request

from the German secret services (BND) and with backing

from the government, he trained hundreds of Colonel

Oadhafi's special forces. Mr. Raethjen, an expert in close

combat, silent killings and operations behind enemy lines.

had himself previously worked for the BND, according to

ASSIUT (R) - Thousands of heavily armed Egyptian

police on Wednesday swooped down on towns and villages

searching for militants behind a recent wave of anti-

government violence, security sources said. They said the

police, backed by some 10 armoured personnel carriers and

equipped with automatic rifles, moved on a number of

villages and towns in the southern Egyptian province of

Minya. The forces raided bouses of suspected militants

mainly in the town of Mallawi and the villages of Abu Ras,

Rawda, Mahras and Manshiyat Maghada

Egypt police search for militants

has been suspended pending an investigation.

Danish woman critical after Turkish shooting

'Iran's weapons threaten Isra**e**i'



CHECHENYA WAR: Chechens try to identify the bodies of two civilians killed by a bomb in the road going to Grozny

Prince Mohammad, Suharto review relations, seek increased trade ties

Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Wednesday met with Indonesian President Mohammad Suharto in Jakarta and conveyed to him a written message from the King dealing with bilateral relations.

The message expressed Jordan's keen interest to enhance Jordanian-Indonesian cooperation in cultural, economic and scientific fields. Prince Mohammad re-

AMMAN (Petra) — His viewed with President Suhar-Royal Highness Prince to bilateral relations and issues of common interest to Jordan and Indonesia, with the Prince expressing pride inthe close ties between the two Muslim countries.

> He also praised development witnessed in Indonesia the largest Muslim country, in various fields, and praised the country's role in the Non-Aligned Movement

Prince Mohammad renewed an invitation extended by King Hussein to President

Spharto to visit Iordan President Suharto express ed keenness in bolstering bilateral ties, especially in trade and exchange of commod-

He also called for boosting cooperation among the countries of the South within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement and adopt a unified stand vis-a-vis changes in the world.

The Indonesian president asked Prince Mohammad to convey his greetings and best

wishes to King Hussein. Part of the meeting was attended by Her Royal High-Indonesia Lu'ai Al Khash-

man and Mrs. Khashman. Princess Taghreed, who arrived in Jakarta Tuesday on a two-day visit to Indonesia, on Wednesday visited museums there and the city of Thaman Mana, a replica of all of the country's provinces

ness Princess Taghreed Mohammad, Mrs. Suharto and Jordan's Ambassador to

Prince Mohammad and

West weighs options after GIA threat

BONN (Agencies) — The German government on Wednesday said Germany, Britain and the United States should cooperate over an ultimatum from armed Islaiffic extremists to close their ciabassies in Algeria within four days or face attack.

sman Martin Erdmann aid: "We are in contact with these countries (Britain and the United States) to find a common response or joint action" in light of the threat to kill all non-Muslim fore-

Deputy foreign ministry

said the threat came from the most radical of the factions at war with Algeria's secular army-backed government, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), but Germany refused to name the authors of the

Mr. Erdmann said he had the "impression" that the letters sent to the United States and Britain were identical to the one received by the Ger-

man authorities. The writers said they would kill "all non-believers

in cold blood" from Jan. 7. U.S. experts said the letters could be boaxes or the work of a mentally unstable person, but the German government has decided to take the threat very seriously. More than 70 expatriates have already been murdered in Algeria since 1993.

The German embassy in Algiers is currently staffed by 17 people, of whom Ambassador Friedrich Reiche and nine others have diplomatic status. The German school and the Goethe Institute have been closed and German firms have re the families of their employees in the country.

According to the foreign ministry, 265 German nationals are still in the strife-torn country, the great majority of them married to Algerian

A British Foreign office spokesman said on Tuesday the threat, written in German, had been received by the embassy in Berne in the last few days. Similar messages appeared to have been of Arab interior ministers in

sent to other Western countries with interests in Algeria. It ordered all diplomatic staff to leave Algeria as quickly as possible, break all

contacts with the country and clear the embassy by Jan. 7. "Otherwise, after the ultimatum has run out, we can give no guarantees about the lives of foreign nationals," the statement said. "After that, all 'infidels' (unbelievers) will be killed in cold

A U.S. official said in Washington that the U.S. embassy in Berne had re-

The U.S. official said that a preliminary investigation of the incident indicates that it might be a hoax, stating that the "initial impression is that it does not match patterns that we know."

Algerian Interior Minister Abdul Rahman Meziane Cherif described the threats as "manipulation."

"It's just manipulation and show," the minister said on the sidelines of a conference Tunis. "Algeria guarantees the security of all those who live and work there."

The German spokesman said one possibility being considered was replacing separate Western embassies with a single joint diplomatic mission. But he said no decision had been reached.

The GIA claimed responsibility for the hijacking of an Air France passenger plane eleven days ago. It ended when French commandos stormed the airliner in Marseille, killing the four hijackers and rescuing 169 hos-

France is sending a mission to Algiers to seek guarantees for the safety of its nationals after the hijacking.

Following reports France no longer trusted the Algerian authorities after disputes between the two during the hijacking, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told RTL Radio: 'It is normal and it is our duty to take extra precautions. In the next few days we will send a mission to study how to reinforce security."

Israeli undercover agents killing militants

— Sneh TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Specially-trained Israeli army indercover units are liquidating Palestinian activists in the occupied territories, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh said here Wednesday.

Mr. Sneh, a reserve general, said the units "track down terrorist groups and liquidate them before they can carry out anti-Israeli attacks."

The "terrorist" groups operated among the Iranian-backed Hizbollah in South Lebanon and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, Mr. Sneh told army

"We have to destroy them by resorting to tricks, and we have been making a deter-mined effort to do that recently," he said. "Fighting terrorism is the main challenge we have to tackle in 1995."

The radio said an undercover unit was responsible for killing two Palestinian militants near Bethlehem on the West Bank Monday.

Palestinian police said that 10 Israeli soldiers in civilian clothes were arrested on a search operation in autonomous Gaza.

The army on Wednesday admitted the soldiers had been taken by Palestinian police to the joint Israel-Palestine Liberation organisation (PLO) liaison committee office in the Strip but said they were in uniform and denied they had been arrested or interrogated.

A spokesman said the unit had been following a car driven by Palestinians they suspected of kidnapping a soldier after a rumour that turned out to be false.

The daily Haaretz said the Israelis belonged to the undercover "Samson" unit who dress in Arab clothes; speak fluent Arabic and can melt into the local popula-

Palestinian sources say the units are based in Jewish

The incident came a day after Israeli troops killed three Palestinians in the worst such clash since auton-

Palestinian police chief Nasr Yusef said Tuesday that the soldiers in civilian clothes were arrested near Khan Yunis in southern Gaza.

"We got a report yesterday from the joint liaison committee, but we are re-opening the investigation because Israel said it was not right," said a senior Palestinian police officer who refused to. be identified.

'Je ne regrette rien' — Mitterrand

PARIS (AFP) — Ailing French President Francois Mitterrand said he has no regrets as he enters the final four months of his political career and possibly the final months of his life. Speaking at a traditional New Year ceremony when French political leaders express their wishes for the year ahead, the ailing head of state played down any nostalgic potential of the event. "It is with no particular regret that I will see the end arrive," he said. replying to speeches by Senate Speaker Rene Monory and National Assembly Speaker Philippe Seguin. On New Year's Eve, in his traditional broadcast message to the French people, Mr. Mitterrand made a moving reference to the end of 14 years in the Elysee Palace. "I believe in the power of the spirits I will not leave you," he said. He made no specific reference to whether his health will allow him to remain untilthe end of his mandate. which expires in May after two-round presidential elections. Mr. Mitterrand, 78, is suffering from prostate cancer, for which he has undergone two operations as well as chemotherapy and

Japan's newest princess named

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Prince Akishino and his wife Princess Kiko, have named their new daughter Kako, meaning "beautiful child," the imperial bousehold agency announced Wednesday. The couple's second daughter was born Dec. 29. The name, announced following the traditional naming ceremony at the Imperial Palace clinic, was chosen by the couple, imperial household officials said. Princess Kiko gave birth to their first baby girl, Mako, in October 1991. Prince Akishino is the younger of Emperor Akihito's two sons. He married Princess Kiko in

1995: A year Oscar Wilde

LONDON (AFP) - Admir-

veiled a plaque in his honour, •

ers of Oscar Wilde have un-

launching a year of celebra-tion that will also see the

writer, wit and bon viveur

who scandalised Victorian

England elevated to the pantheon of English litera-; ture. The plaque was unveiled at London's Theatre Royal, where the premier of Wilde's play An Ideal Husband was staged 100 years ago. 1995 also marks the centenary of the playwright's arrest for "sodomy" and indecency. Although the British government last year re-fused to accord him a posthumous pardon, Tuesday's ceremony was only the first in a series of celebratory events in his honour over the coming 12 months. Even the Church of England will be part of the proceedings, with Wilde's getting his personal plaque on Feb. 14 in Westminister Abbey's Poets' Corner, where the established greats of English literature are commemorated. Born in Britishruled Ireland in 1856, Wilde rocked Victorian society with his homesexual relationship with Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas, the son of the Marquis of Queenbery De-nounced by the marquis, Wilde was sentenced to two years of hard labour in May 1895 for what was then an illegal activity. The marquis's descendents, however, have not shared his outrage. On Thesday the current marquis and Wild's gradson, Merlin Holland, both attended the unveiling ceremony presided by veteran actor John Gielgud. "My father and David (the marquess of) Queensberry's father were great friends and he dedicated a book to my father," said Holland. "This year will see a lot of celebrations but it's nice that the first celebrates his literary achievements." The author of The Picture Of Dorian Gray and The Importance Of Being Earnest never fully recovered from the harsh conditions of Victorian orison life. Once freed, Wilde emigrated to France under a pseudonym, dying there three years later at the age of 44.

Pakistani ambassador ends term in Jordan with fond memories

By Cathy King Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — After a fiveyear tenure in Amman, Pakistani Ambassador Tareq Alfridi and wife Cristina depart for Portugal where the ambassador will take up

office soon. Mr. Alfridi arrived here on Jan. 17, 1990 to take up his second ambassadorship following four years in Brazil. In Jordan, he said, he was given the opportunity to witness a chapter in the history

of the region. "I have been very fortunate," Mr. Alfridi said in an interview with the Jordan Times. "It is not often that one is given the opportunity to witness such events as the unfolding of the peace process, starting with the Madrid Conference, then the Oslo accords, the Washington Declaration and finally the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace

He said that his term of office here had been an eventful period which also saw the Iraqi invasion of Knwait when around 20,000 Pakistani nationals were evacuated from Iraq and Kuwait through Jordan.

The embassy provided housing for 3,000-4,000 people at a time before providing transportation home.

The Gulf crisis resulted in

the isolation of Jordan but the Jordanian government and people reacted impressively and with dignity," Mr. Alfridi added.

Another event Mr. Aifridi

said he would regard with fondness was the people's reaction to the safe return of His Majesty King Hussein in September 1992 from the U.S. following successful

surgery there.
"I will always remember the reception His Majesty received when he returned from the United States and the crowd's genuine outpouring of love and devotion," the diplomat said.

Relations between Pakistan and Jordan are close, he said, because of the physical help reciprocated when needed which created a

During his stay in Jordan. he added, there had been visits here by two Pakistani prime ministers, the chairman of the Upper House, the speaker of the Lower House and the head of the Pakistani military among others.

Trade, he said, was currently in favour of Jordan. Pakistan is a major importer of Jordanian phosphates. Earlier this year the two countries signed an agreement involving Jordanian Phosphate Mines Company

and the Fauji Foundation in This is a \$370 million project, and a holding company has been formed. Hopefully this will lead to more econo-

mic collaboration in the fu-

ture." he said. On a cultural level, Pakistan participated in the Jerash Festival in 1990, held a fashion show here, sent two polo teams, the Davis Cup

twice. Mr. Alfridi himself is a keen polo player and for much of his duration in Amman he has played twice or three times a week and often with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

another keen player, he said. In addition to folklore groups that have played here, he said that the first art exhibition of Pakistani young artists was held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Decem-

On the educational front, a Pakistani university profes-sor, paid and funded by the Pakistani government, lectures in history, Pakistan studies and Urdu at Al al Bait University.

"We also award 32 places annually to Jordanian students to study in various institutions in Pakistan," he According to Mr. Alfridi,

there is a Jordan-Pakistan Graduates Club for the 2,000-3,000 graduates from Pakistani educational institutions which he added created another bond between the two countries. Mr. Alfridi, who has been

with the diplomanc corps since 1973, said he and his wife, now four-months pregnant, were happy here with many friends. "Éveryone here has been

warm, friendly and hospitable, and I think I can say we have many friends and will certainly miss them and Jordan very much," he said.

Washington dismisses Alexandria statement, defends Israeli stand

WASHINGTON (Agencies) - The United States has said it disagreed with a statement adopted by Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia last week blaming Israel for the lack of progress in peace talks with

"We reject the propositison that one side or any side is responsible for any obstade for peace," said State Department spokesman Michael McCurry when asked about the statement adopted at the Alexandria

Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia accused the Jewish state of blocking the talks and demanded that the United States and Russia — the cosponsors of the Middle East peace talks - push Israel to be more pliable.

Mr. McCurry's statement on Tuesday was the first official U.S. reaction to the declaration. The spokesman stressed

that there were still "serious gaps" between Syria and Israel on a peace agreement but added that the two countries must act to reduce them. "The momentum towards a comprehensive peace will

continue in 1995," he added. The sticking point has been the timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from the Goian Heights.

Syrian and Israeli military officials met quietly in Washington in late December and Mr. McCurry declined to answer questions on See related report on page 2

the outcome of these talks. Mr. McCurry denied that Cairo and Riyadh had turned away from Mideast peace efforts.

Israel's Ma'ariv newspaper-reported that Israeli officials are concerned the summit boosted Syrian efforts to delay the development of normal ties between the Jewish state and other Arab comtries.

In answer to a question from one reporter, who said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi King Fahd seemed to have turned against the peace process, Mr. McCurry said: ... That is not a fair repre-

sentation of what's happened, nor is it a representation of the type of assistance in the course of the peace process in 1994 we enjoyed from the government of Egypt. That is just not an accurate presentation of where they've been on it."
He added, "sometimes we

choose not to conduct diplomacy publicly," and stres-sed that after the United States assesses the summit results "we will have discussions separately with each of the three governments that participated and better understand their views."

"We will restfirm our own view that we need to make process towards a comprehensive and lasting peace for the region," he said.

